



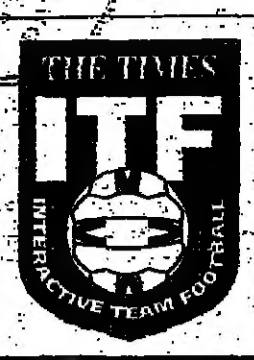
LIFE OF THE PARTY
The political hostess with the mostest is back
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Frances Lawrence's crusade hinges on prison reform
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Lost forever: a nation's heritage looted by its own people



A cast of a poet from the lost Bagram collection

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

AFGHANISTAN has lost its past to war. Great palaces and mansions have been shelled, the National Museum is rubble. Every item of state treasure has been smashed, sold or stolen. Few countries have been so systematically raped by their own people.

The plunder and destruction began after the former Soviet Union invaded in 1979. The country disintegrated socially and economically, but arguably as disastrous has been

the destruction of its heritage — which was unique because of Afghanistan's position at the crossroads of commerce and conquest for thousands of years.

The National Museum held one of the world's greatest multicultural antique collections: Persian, Indian, Chinese, Central Asian and beyond. The Russians respected and protected the relics, but American-backed Mujahidin rebels saw them as ready cash, to be blasted out of their vaults and hauled away to buyers across the world. The collection can never be reassembled, or even located. Pottery from prehistory was

bundled into bags like cheap china: ivory statues of Indian courtesans from the 2nd century AD were stuffed into the pockets of gunmen and carted off to Pakistan to be sold for a song, eventually turning up on the world's antique art markets for huge sums.

The Bagram collection, one of the greatest archaeological finds of the 20th century, disappeared — 1,800 lacquers, bronzes, ivories, glassware items and statues from ancient Rome, Greece, India, China, Egypt and Central Asia. The trove, some of it dating from the 1st century, was discovered northeast of Kabul in

1939 in two sealed rooms. This was the site of Kapisa, summer capital of Kanishka, King of the Kushans. In the 2nd century the emperors of Rome and the Han emperors of China avidly exchanged their most exotic products with the Kushan Empire, many of which were found at Bagram. Some were probably from a Kushan national museum. Of this, nothing is left.

More than 40,000 coins, among them some of the world's oldest from prehistory, vanished. Afghan and Pakistani politicians were key players in the plunder of these and other items from the National

Museum, and it is known that one piece is held by Major-General (retired) Naserullah Babar, the Pakistani Home Minister, who bought it for three million rupees (£57,000). He says he will return it when there is peace in Afghanistan.

A marble fountain bowl, found near the tomb of Babar (1403-1530), first of the six Great Moguls, has gone. Lorryloads of items from Afghan prehistory — Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic — were carried away like junk, to be sold for pennies, or dumped because they seemed worthless. Of the entire vast collection, the whereabouts of only

13,000 pieces was known up to 1994. In and around Kabul the destruction of the architectural heritage is almost absolute. There is one strange survivor: the modest marble tomb of Babar, sitting on a hill overlooking the capital. Its marble canopy bullet-holed and broken, but the tomb itself in perfect condition save for some carved graffiti. It is the centrepiece of a once beautiful park, its lush gardens returned to desert, its trees chopped to stumps for firewood. The Persian inscription on the tomb reads:

Continued on page 2, col 3

Embattled Taleban, page 15

'Good citizen' prize honours stabbed head

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AN ANNUAL good citizenship award for young people is to be set up in the name of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence, Michael Howard announces today.

The Home Secretary says that the memorial award, which will recognise outstanding contributions towards the community, is one of a series of ideas being considered by the Government to improve society.

Ministers also aim to reduce violence on TV, to announce a scheme by the end of the year to identify potential offenders and turn them away from crime, and to establish a national network to prevent crime and combat violence.

That might include a "mentor" system where adults are asked to befriend and supervise individual young people.

Writing in *The Times* today, Mr Howard says that details of the citizenship award will be discussed with Mr Lawrence's widow, Frances, who this week launched her own campaign to reverse the deterioration of society. The Home Secretary writes: "In taking forward the values for which he (Mr Lawrence) stood, we can at the same time honour his memory."

Mrs Lawrence was last night delighted by the announcement. "The children and I are profoundly moved that the Government wishes to mark Philip's life in this way,"

she said. "I also hope that plans to put lessons in citizenship at the heart of the curriculum will go ahead."

She and her family had been heartened by the enormous support that she had received from all quarters. "I am taking stock of all the suggestions made and hope in the next few days to see how we can translate hopes into action."

Mr Howard's initiatives came as all three party leaders endorsed Mrs Lawrence's manifesto. Mrs Lawrence has had meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr Howard and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, and she is also expected to meet Tony Blair and his education spokesman, David Blunkett.

Yesterday ministers and shadow ministers vied to outdo each other by announcing or confirming a series of initiatives in response to her programme — although Mrs Shephard, who announced that the Government was to pilot good citizenship classes, denied that politicians were being driven to action by public movements such as Mrs Lawrence's and the Dunblane Snowdrop campaign against guns.

Mr Blair backed her call for lessons on good citizenship to be included in the national curriculum and said Mrs Lawrence had done a real service for the country. John

Major said that Mrs Lawrence had "touched a chord" and had strong support from the Government, while Paddy Ashdown said that she was speaking for "millions of Britons."

One of Mrs Lawrence's proposals was a ban on the sale of combat knives and while Mr Howard does not commit the Government to that, he indicates in his *Times* article that he intends to extend the ban on the sale of knives to the under 16s which comes into effect on January 1.

He also says that a green paper will be published soon to extend the tagging system to cover young offenders and further legislation will be introduced to make it easier for schools to discipline disruptive pupils.

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, meanwhile announced that he would be putting forward plans to introduce special parenting classes to advise teenagers and young adults of the difficulties of bringing up a family.

Mr Straw will also propose new "parental responsibility orders" which would require parents to take counselling sessions or attend classes if a court found that they were not looking after their children properly.

Grassroots movement, page 7
Michael Howard and Libby Purves, page 18



Cardinal Basil Hume launches the Catholic church's policy document yesterday

Ministers clash over Catholic Church's 'pro-left manifesto'

BY RUTH GLEDHILL AND JAMES LANDALE

THE Catholic Church last night faced a barrage of criticism after advocating a range of left-leaning policies in a pre-election manifesto designed to remind Catholics of the church's teaching on social issues.

Although bishops denied that the document favoured any political party, their support of key Labour policies such as a national minimum wage prompted criticism from Tory MPs and ministers.

But two ministers appeared to be at odds over the document. While Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, attacked its support for a minimum wage, Ann Widdecombe, a junior Home Office minister and leading Catholic, claimed that the document had been misrepresented.

She repeated the church's view that the document did not advocate a minimum wage, but merely stated that the policy was not prohibited under Catholic teaching.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, claimed the church's views tallied with Labour's. "We think the values they are espousing, and the hope that they want to see for the future, is in line with the stance and the promises of the Labour Party," he said.

Launching the 35-page document yesterday, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said it did not attempt to propose specific solutions to complex social, economic and political questions. "Much less is it a directive to people how they should vote," he said.

"That would be quite improper on the part of us the bishops. We expect Catholics to study what we have said and vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience."

However, the document, titled *The Common Good*, condemns the "unlimited free market", says the decline in trade union membership is "not necessarily a healthy sign", and speaks warmly of Britain's membership of the European Union. "It is possible to be both British and European," it says. The report demands that workers should

Continued on page 2, col 6

Leading article, page 19



"I've got a friend who would like a few words with you, too"

Oxford student, 18, found dead in bed

BY DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A PROMISING Oxford classics student has been found dead in her college bed one week into her first term. Police were last night investigating how Rachel Steer, 18, from Surbiton in Surrey, died. No one else was believed to have been involved and a post-mortem examination is being held today.

Rachel arrived at Oxford two weeks ago and was thought to be settling in well at St Hilda's, the university's last all-female college. Dr Jane Taylor, the Dean, said: "We have no idea of the cause of death. She was a most promising student and perfectly cheerful."

"Her tutor was very impressed both with her quality of work and the way she was dealing with it. Her friends say she had a lovely sense of humour. She was a lovely, happy, intelligent, pretty girl."

Dr Taylor added that Rachel's friends had seen her on Sunday and raised the alarm when she did not turn up to lectures yesterday.

Ruth's parents travelled to the college yesterday where they were being comforted by the Principal, Elizabeth Llewellyn-Smith.

Manchester loses to Wembley

Wembley looked almost certain to be chosen as the site of the new national stadium after the governing bodies of football, rugby league and athletics gave it unanimous backing over the rival bid from Manchester.

Although the £200 million cost of rebuilding the 74-year-old arena would be high, the worldwide reputation of the twin-tower stadium gave Wembley the edge. A final decision is expected from the Sports Council by the end of the year after prolonged postponements. **Page 52**

Former Tory MP joins Labour

A former Conservative MP has joined the Labour Party. Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, 62, a management consultant, was the only Tory MP to join the SDP in 1981 but lost his seat at the 1983 general election. He has since unsuccessfully fought parliamentary seats as an SDP/Alliance candidate and as a Liberal Democrat candidate.

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Murder witness to give away £250,000 reward

BY ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY AND ADRIAN LEE

A BRITISH tourist whose evidence helped to convict Ivan Milat, the Australian "backpacker murderer", says he will give a £250,000 reward to charity and the victims' families.

Paul Onions, 30, told Channel Nine television in Australia: "I would like to donate all the money to the victims' families and the New South Wales Homicide Support Group." He added: "Surely there should be some morals left where you don't need money to give evidence."

Yesterday Mr Onions was praised by Jacqueline Clarke, whose daughter Caroline, 21, was murdered by Milat along with her travelling companion Joanne Walters, 22, of Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan.

"He sounds like a very special young man. It is an extremely generous gesture and very unusual in this day and age."

"All the families were so grateful for what he did that I am sure none of them would begrudge him keeping at least a small amount of the money for himself," Mrs Clarke, of Sleafy, Northumberland, said.

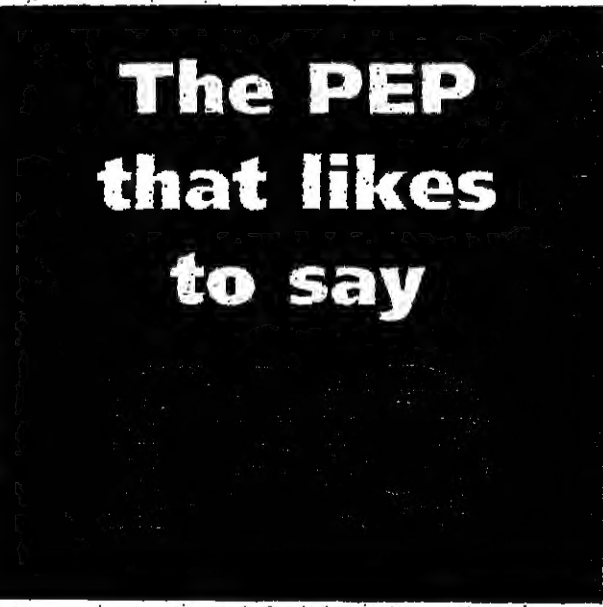
Mr Onions was the only known survivor of an attack by Milat, 51, who was jailed



Onions: "special man"

for life in July for murdering seven backpackers. His identification of the killer was crucial in securing a conviction. The reward was offered by Australian Police before Milat's capture.

The air-conditioning engineer from Willenhall, in the West Midlands, was on a backpacking tour of Australia in 1990 when he was given a lift by Milat. He narrowly escaped death when his attacker shot at him and wrestled him to the ground alongside the Sydney-Melbourne road. Mr Onions escaped by throwing himself in front of an oncoming car, forcing it to stop.



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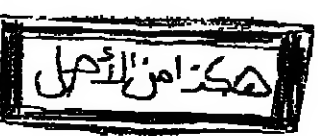
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Howard drops sex offenders register

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a national register of sex offenders in Britain have been dropped from the Government's main law and order initiative for the next session of parliament.

The proposal is one of several measures aimed at providing greater protection to the public which ministers have been forced to abandon because there is not enough time to pass them before the general election next year.

Among the casualties are plans to make it an offence for convicted paedophiles to seek employment with children, extending DNA testing to allow samples to be taken from all convicted sex offenders in prison and making convicted sex offenders notify police of any change of address.

Michael Howard had hoped to include the measures allowing police to track the movement of paedophiles and other sex offenders in the crime bill to be published later this week. He has had to drop the idea so that the Bill, the flag ship measure of the next session, is focussed on automatic life sentences for second time rapists and minimum jail terms for third time burglars and drug dealers.

The decision not to include the proposals in the Bill is a bitter disappointment to police and children's groups who had backed Mr Howard's plan to force convicted sex offenders to put their names on the police national computer.

Michelle Elliott of Kidscape, a children's charity, said the move would let down parents throughout the country. "I am shocked. This was one of the most important measures along with gun controls announced by the government. It is madness not to proceed as children need urgent protection from paedophiles."

Under the home secretary's plan, a convicted sex offender's name would be placed on

the register allowing police to track their movements in England and Wales. It would be an offence not to inform the police of a change of address.

Mr Howard planned that the requirement to register would be for life for anyone given a life sentence or prison term of more than thirty months. The Government has already shelved plans for a Bill introducing a national identity card amid fears that it would provoke divisions within the Conservative party in the run up to the election.

Tomorrow's speech will not include the home secretary's plan to increase public safety by giving employers access to job applicants' criminal records. The proposal, unveiled in a White Paper four months ago, included the creation of a Criminal Records Agency which would charge job seekers for providing information about criminal records.

Employers would be entitled to ask an applicant to present a document disclosing any unspent convictions. The Criminal Records Agency would provide a Criminal Conviction Certificate to a job applicant for less than £20.

Government sources said that Private Members' Bill could be used to put some of the abandoned measures into law though in Whitehall it was predicted that none would be on the statute book before the general election.

Alternatively the government is considering the unusual step of publishing draft Bills which would include the measures and then put them in the Conservative party's general election manifesto.

A nationwide hunt has been launched William Knowles, 35, a convicted paedophile who absconded from a bail hostel. Knowles, formerly from Hull, was jailed for two years in March for abducting a nine-year-old boy.



An ivory panel depicting Indian courtesans is among the lost treasures of Bagram

A nation's heritage looted

Continued from page 1

tion declares that the remains of Babur, who died in Agra, were returned to Kabul, the town he loved, in 1646 by Emperor Shah Jehan, builder of the Taj Mahal, who also built Babur's tomb and a mosque alongside it.

The mosque is bomb-damaged and peppered with bullet holes. It is a silent place, set amid mile upon mile of ruin.

Ten miles out of Kabul, the Victory Arch, built in the central square of Paghman village by King Amanullah to commemorate victory in the 1919 War of Independence against Britain, is largely destroyed. The nobility built a profusion of public buildings and palaces in Paghman: all are rubble.

King Amanullah also built Darulaman Palace in Kabul, a

masterpiece but now a bombed-out shell. Up the hill are the remains of a castle, now occupied by a dozen Taliban soldiers who have positioned a tank on the front terrace, giving clear fire to anywhere in the city. These buildings have been looted of everything worthwhile. Like so much of Afghanistan.

Embattled Taliban, page 15



An ivory console, a bronze lamp support and a bust of Mars have also vanished

Church

Continued from page 1
not be treated as commodities and rejects the "trickle-down" theory that wealth creation automatically benefits the poor. It criticises the increasing job losses incurred when firms "downsize" their workforces to boost shareholder profits. It also backs Tony Blair's call for all members of the economic process, including workers, to be treated as "stakeholders".

The 13,000-word paper, which will be sent to all 2,800 parishes in England and Wales, gives its strongest warning to employers that they have a duty to pay a just wage. "If employers do not do this voluntarily, Catholic social teaching would allow the state to make them do so by means of a statutory minimum wage, either nationally or in some sectors. It is not morally acceptable to seek to reduce unemployment by letting wages fall below the level at which employees can sustain a decent standard of living."

Mr Clarke said a minimum wage would be a "quite disastrous" way of raising the standard of living in all sections of society. "You would not create more jobs that people can move to from benefit," he told the BBC's *World at One*. "What you would do is destroy jobs and increase unemployment."

Miss Widdicombe, who converted to the Catholic Church when the Church of England accepted women priests, said: "What the document actually says is that Catholic social teaching would allow a minimum wage. If a politician proposed a minimum wage, it would not be unacceptable to Catholic social teaching, but it is not necessarily advocating a minimum wage."

One area where the bishops are at odds with Labour policy is that of abortion, which they condemn unreservedly. Labour, while saying abortion is a matter for its MPs' consciences in any Commons vote, broadly supports the woman's right to choose.

The document was welcomed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. "The Catholic social teaching has developed over many years as a splendid exposition of Christian values and principles shared by other churches," he said. "They have much to offer our nation and are not the preserve of any one political party."

Leading article, page 19

How Catholic church informs voters' choice

The Roman Catholic church has urged its 4.4 million members in England and Wales to study a manifesto-style document *In The Common Good*. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said: "We expect Catholics to vote in accordance with a properly informed conscience." These are the main points:

MINIMUM WAGE

Employers... have a duty to pay a just wage, the level of which should take account of the needs of the individual and not just his or her value on the so-called labour market. If employers do not do this voluntarily, Catholic social teaching would allow the State to make them do so by means of a statutory minimum wage.

Tories: completely opposed.
Labour: in favour, but refuses to state precise figure.

STAKEHOLDING

The economy exists for the human person, not the other way round. Any enterprise has a range of "stakeholders": shareholders, suppliers, managers, workers, consumers, the community. None of these interests should prevail to the extent that it excludes the interests of the others. Tories: opposed if it means old-style corporatism, in favour if greater opportunity and individual choice.
Labour: a key theme championed by Tony Blair.

ABORTION

The bishops remind Catholic voters of the "alarming extent" to which Britain has become an example of what the Pope called a culture of death. In the three decades since the passage of the Abortion Act, human life has been devalued to the extent where abortion is widely regarded as a remedy for any social or personal difficulty. "We have to raise our voices in protest against all destruction of human life in the womb."
Tories: no policy, a matter of individual conscience.
Labour: backs the right of women to choose, but a matter of conscience for MPs in Commons' votes.

THE MARKET ECONOMY

The Roman Catholic church recognises the positive value of the market. But sometimes market forces cannot deliver what the common good demands. The Roman Catholic doctrine of the common good is incompatible with unlimited free market capitalism... market forces are just as likely to lead to evil results as to good ones.
Tories: backs market as best way of distributing goods and services.
Labour: similar to Tories but opposes unfettered free-marketism.

TRADE UNIONS

The bishops uphold the right to join a trade union as a manifestation of the principle of solidarity. Roman Catholics have been reminded that where possible they should join a trade union. The bishops' conference of England and Wales noted that the decline in union membership in recent years is paralleled by people's high degree of dissatisfaction with their working lives.
Tories: accepts unions but has cut their powers radically. Believes workers should also have right not to be in union.
Labour: Pro-unions but may break formal links.

TRICKLE-DOWN EFFECT

There must come a point at which the gap between the very wealthy and those at the bottom of the range of income begins to undermine the common good. This is the point at which society starts to be run for the benefit of the rich. Some ideological thinkers advocate this approach. We would question their proposition that the further enrichment of the wealthy must, as the inevitable result of economic laws, eventually improve the lot of the poor.
Tories: wealth creation, especially through entrepreneurship, is good for society, particularly in the creation of jobs.
Labour: backs wealth creation but not if it simply makes the rich richer and the poor poorer.

EUROPE

One of the most important issues facing this country is its future relationship with the rest of Europe — and not just with the European Union. Local loyalties and commitments should be fostered, but they should not be set in opposition to these wider expressions of solidarity.
Tories: broadly hostile to Europe, opposing greater powers to Brussels' institutions.
Labour: broadly positive to Europe, accepting social chapter, but like the Tories, divided over a single currency.

BILL OF RIGHTS

The Roman Catholic Church is aware that there are various proposals to strengthen the protection of human rights in Britain, such as the framing of a Bill of Rights. It says some strengthening seems necessary, related to the need for a system of common values if democratic society is to be healthy.
Tories: opposed to Bill of Rights or incorporating European Convention on Human Rights into British law.
Labour: supports incorporation of the convention.

COMPANY DOWNSIZING

Employers need reminding that employees constitute "social capital", a reservoir of human effort, wisdom and experience. Accountability that disregards such assets in the valuation of a concern or in drawing up a balance sheet is inevitably guilty of false accounting. Dumping of "social capital" is a prevalent cause of social injustice in modern society. It often occurs in company "downsizing" operations associated with takeovers, closures and mergers.
Tories: job losses a necessary evil in flexible market; must be cushioned by social security and job creation schemes.
Labour: critical, especially in newly privatised industries.

HEALTH AND EDUCATION

Where such social provisions as health and education are concerned, the common good requires a supervising authority that can step in with remedies as soon as deficiencies become apparent.
Tories: in favour of giving parents greater choice to choose schools with less local authority involvement.
Labour: broadly in favour of greater local authority input but not keen on spending much more money.

QUANGOS

Public confidence is undermined, and democracy subverted, when the members of public authorities responsible for the common good are not appointed democratically or on objective merit.
Tories: in favour, radically increased numbers during last 17 years.
Labour: opposed, pledges to cut quangos.

NHS 'should cover prisons'

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE PRISON medical service should be scrapped and care for the 57,300 inmates in jails handed over to the National Health Service, according to a report by the chief inspector of prisons.

Sir David Ramsbotham calls for an overhaul of health care in jails after criticising the existing service for failing to match NHS standards.

He highlights the care of pregnant women, accusing

the Prison Service of not catering adequately for them.

The Chief Inspector of Prisons says that immediate action is needed to provide increased care for mentally ill prisoners. He recommends new units for mentally disordered offenders and the ability to provide round-the-clock care.

His findings were leaked to *Channel Four News* last night after months of internal wran-

gling in the Prison Service. It is understood that parts of the document were re-written after complaints about inaccuracies and criticism from the Department of Health and the National Health Service.

Sir David, who will publish his report on Friday, warns the Government that doctors and staff in the prison medical service have become isolated from colleagues and suffer low status.

Legal aid change pursued

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government intends to press ahead with plans to overhaul the £1.4 billion legal aid scheme, even without legislation, the Lord Chancellor says today.

In an article in *The Times*, Lord Mackay of Clashfern says that many of the measures can be achieved under existing legislation. He outlines a five-year programme for reform which he says is not about cutting the present level

of spending, but ensuring that "available resources go further to help more people".

Changes at the top of the agenda include the awarding of block contracts by the Legal Aid Board to advice agencies and law firms, with the first contracts expected next year. Contracts for family mediators will follow. The Legal Aid Board has also started work on one-off contracts for expensive cases, starting with multi-

party actions, and contracts with law firms to provide duty solicitor cover at police stations and courts.

The measures were only the start of a long and complex programme, Lord Mackay says. "We remain determined to make the necessary changes to the legal aid scheme and look forward to pressing ahead with the reforms."

Law, page 41

Rantzen Report 'was reasonable'

BY CAROL MIDDLEY

AN Esther Rantzen programme that investigated the treatment of a brain-injured patient at a south London hospital contained minor errors which resulted in a "degree of unfairness", a BBC inquiry has found.

But *The Rantzen Report's* journalistic integrity was not in doubt and the programme makers drew "reasonable conclusions" from the evidence available to them, a spokesman for the BBC complaints unit said.

The internal inquiry was launched after John Ware, another BBC journalist, launched an attack on the programme via a national newspaper last August. Mr Ware, who has produced work for *Panorama* and *Rough*

Justice, accused *The Rantzen Report* of "twisting the facts" when it said Ian Parker lacked stimulation and was neglected at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables.

Mr Ware said the programme on advocacy had also used a hidden camera in the hospital without justification. Yesterday Mr Ware was reprimanded for making his criticisms public without clearing them with the BBC.

The spokesman said *The Rantzen Report*: "In the light of later evidence, it appears that the programme contained some errors. Though these were minor in themselves, they involved a degree of unfairness to the hospital. This did not invalidate however, the programme's overall argument on the topic of advocacy."

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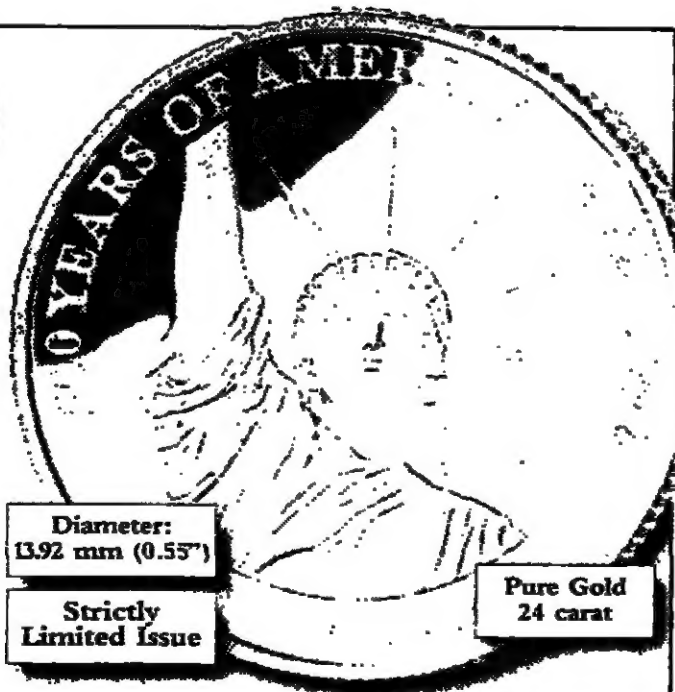
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'Dead' backpacker returns in time for funeral



Cunningham: did not report lost passport for a month

BY ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BACKPACKER flies home to Britain from the Far East today to be reunited with the family who believed he was dead. Even his funeral had been arranged.

Paul Cunningham, 25, was reported to have swallowed 43 condoms packed with heroin, one of which had burst in his stomach. However, the news of his death proved to be exaggerated after the Foreign Office uncovered a case of mistaken identity involving a stolen, doctored passport.

The real victim, involved in an international smuggling ring, proved to be a West African drugs runner on his way from the southern Thai town of Hat Yai to

Penang in Malaysia, where there is an international airport. He is thought to have been thrown out of a taxi by colleagues after he became ill. Having crossed the Thai border at Sadao successfully, he was found lying in a coma by the roadside in Butterworth in northern Malaysia.

The British Embassy in Kuala Lumpur was notified on October 10 after Mr Cunningham's passport was found on the dying man. The drug traffickers are thought to have bought the passport on the black market and doctored it with a bogus photograph. Mr Cunningham, a university graduate, did not report it missing for nearly a month.

The first Mr Cunningham knew of his "death" was when he walked into the British Embassy in Bangkok to ask for a replacement.

Shocked officials told him: "We thought you were dead. Even your funeral has been arranged."

Mr Cunningham's mother, Doreen, 49, said she went through "ten days of absolute hell" after hearing the news that her son had died. She said last night: "I feel as if I'm in the middle of a dream. The last ten days have been an absolute nightmare."

Mrs Cunningham, a mother of two from Oadby, Leicestershire, said after her son telephoned her: "Paul hadn't got a clue what was going on. He had no idea about the grieving at home and continued on his travels. To be told your son is dead and then he is alive is unreal. I can hardly describe my swing in emotions. I keep pinching myself to check it's real."

She added: "At the time I could

never imagine he was involved in drugs. He means so much to me. It was the worst thing a mother could ever imagine. I must have phoned the Foreign Office a dozen times to check there hadn't been a dreadful mistake. But I suppose when you have a son of that age you never know exactly what they are up to."

Paul's father, Noel, 52, said embassy officials were positive it was his son who had died. "I am just extremely relieved to know that everything said about him was totally untrue. We always believed in him."

A spokeswoman for Leicestershire police said: "Our officers acted on the request of the Foreign Office to inform Mr Cunningham's family that he had died while in Malaysia. However, the Foreign Office later informed the force that

Mr Cunningham was alive and well in Bangkok."

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "Apparently Mr Cunningham lost his passport in September and reported it to the embassy only on Friday. During that time his passport was doctored and found on the body of the dead man."

"We regret the distress caused to the family but the good news is that he is alive and well. Had we been notified earlier of the loss of the passport we would have asked for much more investigation by the Malaysian authorities."

He added: "It is a very tragic case. Something like this is a terrible trauma for the parents and family to go through. We will be investigating it further."

Mr Cunningham had spent six months visiting an uncle in New

York before exploring Australia and Thailand, where he is believed to have lost his passport on September 18.

□ The Foreign Office has mounted an "intensive" investigation into a report that Christopher Howes, thought to have been taken by the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia, may still be alive. Mr Howes, 36, a mines expert, had been feared dead months after his capture in March.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in London yesterday that they were making intensive inquiries following the report. "We are urging the Cambodian authorities to look at it thoroughly and we are seeking further information from our ambassador in Phnom Penh. But until we have hard evidence it is yet another report that we can neither confirm nor deny."

Midshipman says officers leered at porn film and captain tried to kiss her

Navy woman tells of sex taunts in the wardroom

BY EMMA WILKINS

A ROYAL Navy commander dressed as Julius Caesar tried to kiss a woman midshipman in a wardroom yesterday.

Claire McGarrity, 25, who was dismissed from the Royal Navy last year, brought her case before an industrial tribunal, claiming that she had been the victim of sexual discrimination. She told about pornographic videos being shown in the officers' mess and of how the ship's captain, a commander, touched her on the hips while reading maps on the bridge.

Miss McGarrity told the hearing that she had tried to avoid him at the party but he eventually approached her and remarked that it would be "jolly" if they danced together.

Towards the end of the evening the captain said he was surprised I had not danced with him. He pulled my hands and took me to dance.

"As he did so he tried to kiss me and I pulled away quite sharply, feigned an excuse and rushed back to my living accommodation," Miss McGarrity, from Newcastle upon Tyne, told the hearing in Exeter. The tribunal has ordered that neither the captain nor his ship be identified.

Miss McGarrity also claimed that the captain touched her on the hips while they were studying navigation charts behind a curtain on the bridge. "He put his hands on my hips and moved me

around the chart table, so he could see the navigation work being done by myself. I felt it was unnecessary as there was enough room to see. I did not complain because he was a commander and I was a midshipman, and I was frightened."

Miss McGarrity, who was one of three women trainee officers on board, began to avoid her male colleagues in the wardroom after finding them watching a pornographic video. Instead of eating with her fellow officers, she had sandwiches alone in her cabin.

"On one occasion I was unfortunate enough to walk in on a particularly embarrassing video, which I did not think was appropriate," she said. "It was a video being shown to the male officers. I said it should not be shown because it is embarrassing and upsetting when your colleagues are leering at the screen. It makes you feel embarrassed to be a female."

"The male crew members would go out for drinks. When they returned, they would talk about their sexual conquests. Then they would ask me what I did and who I was with. I said it was none of their business, but it just got worse. It was unacceptable. There wasn't a day that passed without comments being made."

She said that male colleagues asked her to find out if the other women trainees were having a lesbian affair. She admitted having an affair with a male junior rating and said

she was surprised and upset later when the captain recommended that she should be withdrawn from training and flown home from the Falklands.

"I had been told by the captain I had improved and that it was unfortunate I was leaving when he was just starting to like me so much," she said.

Under cross-examination by Martin Meeke, for the Royal Navy, she agreed that she had been warned about her relationship with the rating and was criticised for spending too much time with the lower ranks. Mr Meeke quoted from a report by the captain which described the relationship as "unacceptably close."

The Navy says that Miss McGarrity was not dismissed, but resigned after being sent home from Dartmouth when officers recommended that she be withdrawn from training.

A spokesman for the Royal Navy said all serving personnel knew that forming a sexual relationship with a colleague on board was a disciplinary offence, which could ultimately result in a court martial.

He added that the service was keen to attract women. "We want to encourage more women to join the Royal Navy to have a sailing career." He also said that the showing of pornographic films was "actively discouraged", but could not be completely prevented.

The tribunal was adjourned until today.



Claire McGarrity yesterday: she claims she was the victim of sex discrimination

The ears have it for witness in theft case

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE main witness in a theft case remained silent on the stand yesterday, but in a crucial test of identification allowed members of the jury to examine his ears.

Darwin, an 18-month-old lemon-coloured foxhound, stood patiently in the witness box as the 12 jurors filed past to inspect distinctive markings in its ears.

The South Dorset Hunt, based in Lyme Regis, has accused the owner of a pet sanctuary of stealing the 1750 dog from a hunt trainer. The English foxhound has tattoos on the inside of both ears, reading SD and 18, which identify it as belonging to the South Dorset Hunt.

Lorraine Drake, 45, who runs the PALS sanctuary in Newton Tony, Wiltshire, is accused of stealing the hound between July 14 and July 26 last year. She also faces two alternative charges of receiving and disposing of the stolen dog.

The prosecution alleges that Ms Drake stole Darwin from a farm in Windrith, Dorset, where the puppy was being prepared for hunting. Justin Gau, for the prosecution, told Bournemouth Crown Court that the dog was renamed Bertie the Beagle and sold to an unsuspecting local vicar, the Rev Frank Collins. The army padre, who is based at Bulford, Wiltshire, bought the puppy for his four children for £125. They were thrilled with the animal and changed his name once again - to Huckleberry Hound.

Mr Gau told the court: "Ms Drake told Mr Collins the dog was a foxhound. She said he had come from a hunt and if the Reverend looked in the animal's ear he would see tattoos which were a mark of the hunt."

Mr Collins made inquiries

and discovered that the foxhound he had been sold was missing from the South Dorset Hunt. Ms Drake was arrested and interviewed by Wiltshire police. She told detectives that she did not know the dog was stolen.

Yesterday afternoon Darwin bounded into the witness stand, close on the heels of Edward Knowles, Master of the South Dorset Hunt. As Mr Knowles gave evidence the dog stood quietly behind him, occasionally leaping up on to his back legs to look around the courtroom.

Mr Knowles told the hearing that foxhounds did not make good pets and could not be sold to anyone who was not a member of the Master of Foxhounds' Association. He said that it was common knowledge all hunt dogs had identifying marks tattooed in their ears.

Ms Drake denies the charges against her. The trial continues.



Darwin: stood patiently in the witness box

Wallace and Gromit survive New York



Nick Park after his models were returned to him. "It's like getting my lost children back," he said

FROM QUENTIN LETTIS IN NEW YORK

A TELEPHONE call before dawn yesterday from a New York taxi driver ended the hunt for the missing cartoon puppets Wallace and Gromit.

The 25-year-old cabbie, slightly mystified to find himself at the centre of an international mystery, rang to say that he had found some Plasticine objects in the boot of his Chevrolet, bumping around in their travelling case next to the spare wheel and greasy jack. He had realised what they were after hearing a radio news bulletin about their disappearance.

An hour later the driver delivered the Oscar-winning characters to the Manhattan hotel where their creator, Bristol-based Nick Park, had spent a fitful night.

"It is like getting my two lost children back," said Mr Park, who on Saturday afternoon had sprinted down a rain-soaked street in pursuit of the taxi when he realised that Wallace and Gromit had

been left in the boot. The nine-inch tall figures, constructed around ball and socket joints, included Wallace's celebrated motorbike and sidecar.

Mr Park, 37, has won three Oscars for his short animated films and is regarded as a world master of his art. He had taken the puppets, which cost £6,000 to make but had considerable emotional value, to the US on Saturday for a promotional tour. They were left behind in the taxi during a rainstorm when a mob of New Yorkers tried to seize the cab as Mr Park alighted at his hotel.

The Indian taxi driver who returned the pair yesterday declined to give his name and would not accept a \$100 note he was offered by Mr Park's factotum and publicity adviser Arthur Sheriff. "Tell you the truth," said the streetwise Mr Sheriff, "I was prepared to pay \$500 to get them back." When the figures went miss-

ing Mr Park had been close to tears, but Mr Sheriff had taken more practical action. It was not quite Lord Lucan, but he alerted every police precinct in Manhattan, telephoned news agencies, and had Mr Park draw Interpol-style Identikit pictures of the missing models.

"I know it sounds like a joke, but they were a good likeness," said Mr Park. "I really didn't think I would see them again, and I would not have done if it had not been for this kindhearted taxi driver who just wanted to do the right thing."

Mr Park's engagingly honest mien forced one to regret earlier suspicions that the entire thing was a publicity stunt.

The puppets were reported to be in moderate condition, although slightly dented. Wallace's nose needed marginal adjustment and Gromit's ears could use some attention.

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Man who shot car thief not guilty of manslaughter

BY ADAM FRESKO

A MEMBER of a gun club was cleared of manslaughter yesterday despite admitting that he shot dead a man he found breaking into his car.

Martin Wise, 35, a gamekeeper, shot Matthew Hodge, 20, with a replica .25 automatic baby Browning pistol outside his home in Hildenborough, Kent when he saw him trying to steal his Ford Escort.

Mr Wise, a father of four, denied manslaughter at Maidstone Crown Court and said that the handgun had gone off accidentally in August last year. He said he pulled the pistol from his pocket to warn off Mr Hodge, who was armed with a monkey wrench. But as he cocked it, the gun went off.

At the time of his arrest police found 23 weapons at his home and at his mother's home. He said he did not know that the gun was loaded and did not deliberately shoot Mr Hodge as the Crown



Mr Wise leaving court in Maidstone yesterday

alleged. The jury was told that when Mr Wise reported the attempted car theft, he did not tell police about the shooting.

Mr Wise also asked a neighbour to take care of his collection of guns, including a .22 Ruger, a Smith and Wesson revolver and a rare Second World War Colt .45, before officers arrived.

At the time of the shooting he had been on his way to his parents' house, where he was required by the terms of his firearms certificate to keep his weapons. He had spent the day shooting at a range in Stone Lodge, near Dartford.

Mr Wise, a former Royal Engineer, has held a shotgun certificate since the age of 17 and a firearms certificate since the age of 21. He had been cleared of murder at an earlier trial.

Detective Superintendent David Clapperton said that Mr Wise's gun licence would be reviewed, particularly the number of weapons he had been allowed to own. He said: "Matthew was just 21 years of age and his life was taken away from him very tragically and very suddenly. A lot of negative things have been said about him during the trial but he would have grown out of those things. He was never given the opportunity." Mr Wise said last night: "I am very pleased and now I have to think about what to do."

Budgie firm's shares go into tailspin

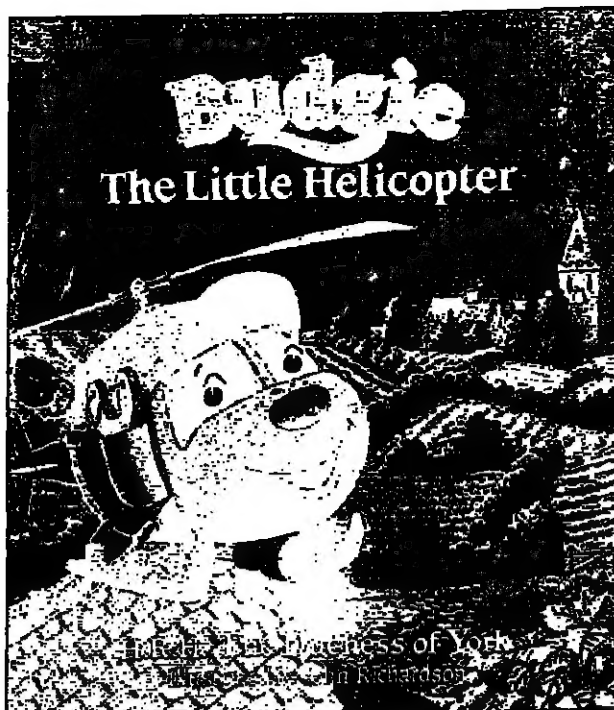
BY PAUL DURMAN

BUDGIE the Little Helicopter, the cartoon character created by the Duchess of York, hit fresh turbulence yesterday when marketing problems in the United States saw £2 million wiped off the value of the company that sits at its controls.

Hopes for a revival in the Duchess's notoriously over-stretched finances have often been pinned on Budgie, which contributes most of the profits of the stockmarket firm Sleepy Kids. Television rights have been sold to more than 70 countries, and last year the firm made profits of nearly £1 million.

However, the firm's shares fell 6½p to 20p yesterday, their lowest this year. The company is now valued at £6 million, down from £15 million.

Sleepy Kids blamed the latest problems on the failure of its American marketing agent, Launey Hachmann



Budgie is controlled by Sleepy Kids, whose shares fell by 6½p yesterday to their lowest this year

Harris, which was forced to seek protection from its creditors in April. In a statement to the Stock Exchange, made necessary by its collapsing share price, Sleepy Kids said that it had been unable to capitalise on the "initial success" of the Budgie cartoons shown on the Fox Children's Network. The company said it was too early to quantify the damage to profits.

It intends to relaunch Budgie throughout the United States once it has appointed a new agent. First, though, it must straighten out some legal difficulties. In the 12-point statement, the company attempted to rebut some recent criticisms. For example, it said that Fox had not "dropped" the Budgie series, only rescheduled it. Budgie had been very successful on Fox, the company said, and it was discussing making a fourth series for the ITV network.

JP and ex-wife jailed for lying about crash

A magistrate and his former wife were jailed for lying over a drink-drive accident. John and Anne Bosomworth tried to convince the police and a magistrates' court that she had been at the wheel of their Range Rover when it crashed while returning home to Beamsley, North Yorkshire, after a night out in September 1994. At Leeds Crown Court yesterday, the former Mrs Bosomworth was jailed for nine months, and her former husband for 15 months, after they admitted perverting the course of justice and perjury.

Foetuses 'feel pain at six weeks'

A foetus may be able to feel pain six weeks after conception, says a report by the charity Christian Action Education and Research. A commission of inquiry concluded that almost every expert accepts foetuses can feel pain by 24 weeks, with growing evidence it may occur much earlier. The conclusion has implications for abortion and operations.

Aberfan remembers its dead

The people of Aberfan gathered at a hillside cemetery yesterday, the thirtieth anniversary of the coal tip disaster that killed 116 children and 28 adults. Relatives laid flowers on the rows of graves. The Mayor of Merthyr Tydfil, William Smith, laid a wreath at a memorial service at 9.15am, the time a coal tip slid down the hillside in 1966.

Broadcasters snub Belfast

Up to 200 of Europe's leading broadcasters have abandoned plans to hold a major conference in Belfast next summer because of fears that they will be vulnerable to terrorist violence. The BBC, which is hosting the event, has switched the venue to Edinburgh. The IRA bomb attack on army barracks at Lisburn triggered the change of heart.

Guardsman wins action

A Grenadier Guardsman, Stephen Jordan, 25, of Bilston, West Midlands, who claimed he suffered epileptic fits after the Army imprisoned him for eight months, is understood to have accepted damages from the Ministry of Defence. He claimed he was not properly treated for his epilepsy and was once assaulted by a military policeman.

Stagg lawyer accuses media

William Clegg, the lawyer who defended Colin Stagg, acquitted of the murder of Rachel Nickell, has written to *The Times* accusing the media of pursuing a campaign against his client. Yesterday Mr Stagg claimed he had new information about the murder of Miss Nickell in 1992 and demanded payment for disclosing it. *Letters, page 19*

Bride sues GP after having stroke

A bride who was put on the Pill just before her wedding day suffered a catastrophic stroke that has left her totally paralysed, the High Court was told yesterday. Leena Vadera, of Hatch End, Pinner, was a month away from marriage in November 1986 when she consulted her GP. She is suing for damages. The hearing continues.

Forsyth criticises gun group

Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, criticised "insensitive" plans by a gun lobby group to field a general election candidate against him in the constituency of Stirling, which includes Dunblane. He is defending a majority of 703. The Shooters' Rights Association insisted it was the only way to highlight the arguments against strict gun laws.

Labour puts in a call for support

The Labour leadership tried to inject renewed impetus into its manifesto ballot by canvassing 100,000 members by telephone. A week-long campaign was launched to encourage members to endorse or oppose the contents of the mini-manifesto, *New Labour, New Life for Britain*, which will be the basis of the party's general election campaign.

Tory club ban leaves bad odour

A Conservative club has banned one of its members for six months after complaints that his feet smell. The committee at March, Cambridgeshire, voted to suspend Tony Fisher, 58, for repeatedly refusing to keep his shoes and socks on. Mr Fisher says he went barefoot to relieve his gout. A club spokesman said: "The odour pervaded throughout the bar."



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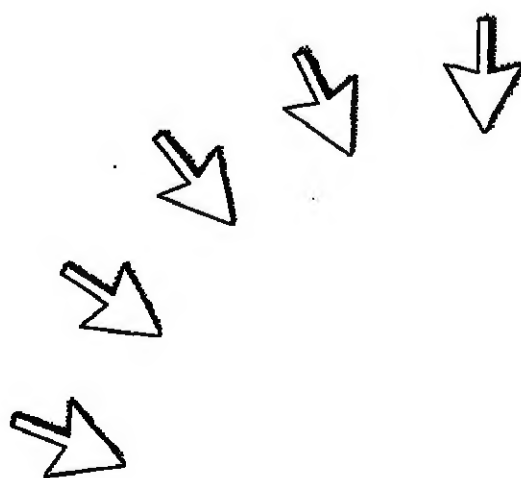


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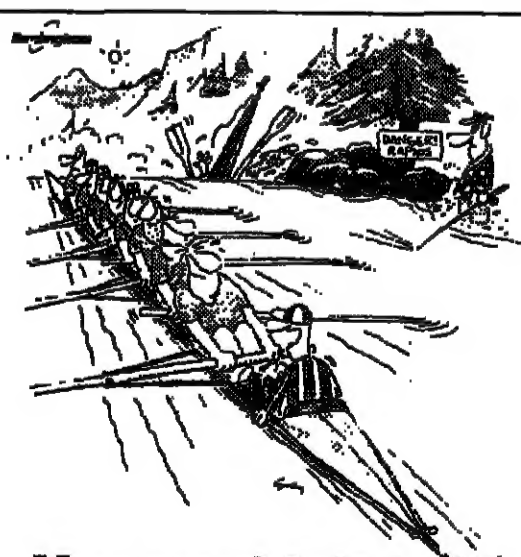
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An earl's whim that changed our diet

WHEN, in 1794, the 11th Earl of Sandwich, John Montagu, was in the middle of a long and tiring day, he decided to eat something that could be eaten with one hand while holding a card or a book with the other. He invented the sandwich.

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Plea to catch youths who dropped concrete on car

Family of M3 victim beg parents to question sons

By LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

THE parents of a man left critically ill when youths dropped a concrete block through his car windscreen from a motorway bridge yesterday not in harbour those responsible.

After police said that the youths they were seeking could be as young as 13, Simon Willmott's mother asked parents to tell the police if they suspected their children were involved. Sandy Willmott said: "We want to speak to parents. You know the members of your household better than anyone. Since Simon was injured, whoever did this must be frightened and showing some reaction."

"Parents, if you sense something is wrong, please probe. If you think anyone in your household was involved in this incident, we are appealing to you to do the right thing for all parents and ring the police. Whoever did this must be made aware that, in one moment of foolishness, they have affected not just Simon, but so many others." She

begged parents to think back to last Thursday and to ask where their children were at 5pm, when the incident happened.

Mr Willmott remained unconscious with severe chest injuries in Frimley Park Hospital, Camberley, Surrey, last night. Mrs Willmott, 50, and her husband, Alan, looked tired and drawn from their four-day vigil at his bedside. Mrs Willmott said that she had been pleased and surprised by the public's "fantastic" response in pleas for information: "We are absolutely overwhelmed by it all."

Police said they believed that three youths hurled the 1ft by 1ft block of concrete from the northern bridge at Junction 5 on the M3 near Hook, in Hampshire. Mr Willmott's Ford Escort was travelling at 70mph north from Bournemouth, where he works as an account executive with the cable company Nynex, to the home he shares with his parents in Bagshot, Surrey. He managed to stop the car safely about 300 metres from



Simon Willmott is still unconscious in hospital

the bridge, but was unconscious by the time the first person got to him. His body had been crushed by the concrete block.

Half a dozen motorists have since told police about similar instances over the past weeks at the same spot. Detective Chief Inspector John James said it raised the possibility that the same group of youths had been responsible. He described the three

wanted teenagers as being between 5ft 4in and 5ft 10in tall, with one markedly taller than the others. They were believed to be aged between 13 and 19, dressed in dark clothes, with short, possibly cropped hair, and were of a slim or medium build. They had been spotted several times between 6.45pm and 8pm on the night in question.

Mr James said that he also wanted to trace other witnesses, including two youths aged about 14, with fair hair, seen in Station Road, Hook, and another youth aged between 15 and 20, seen alone on the bridge. Police were making inquiries yesterday at those local schools not on half-term and were talking to residents of Odham and Hook.

Some in Odham, a wealthy town to the south of the M3, refused to believe that anyone from the area could have been responsible. As one woman put it: "Teenagers from some housing estates down the way in Basingstoke must have done this. In this part of the world, children are properly brought up, properly educated and properly disciplined."



Sandy and Alan Willmott yesterday: they asked suspicious parents to ring police

Good turn may rule out Varsity rugby blue

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A CAMBRIDGE rugby blue could miss this year's Varsity match after his jaw was broken by a gang of youths when he and a friend intervened to protect a cyclist deliberately knocked off his bike.

Nick Holgate, a 15-stone prop forward, who has had a plate inserted in his jaw after a kick to the side of his head, said: "I've got a broken jaw, a black eye and some cuts. I wouldn't have minded if it had happened on the rugby pitch."

The injury to the third-year management studies student from Robinson College means that he cannot play rugby for six weeks - giving him only two weeks to get back in the team before the match in December. Mr Holgate, 21, said: "Competition for a place is very tough. I don't know if I'll be selected again. I've just got to try to keep fit."

Tony Rogers, Cambridge University coach, said the possibility of losing Mr Holgate was a disappointment but he had not completely ruled him out of contention. Three youths have been arrested and released on police bail.

British sarnie is a must for le beau monde

FROM ROBIN YOUNG IN PARIS

HAVING taken over the leading fashion houses of Paris, the British are now introducing the French to something else they do better: the designer sandwich.

At this year's biggest food show in Europe, British sandwiches are the product most in vogue and discussed. "The chic thing in Paris at present is to be seen eating an *sandwich anglais*," Patrick Davis, head of Food from Britain, the British food promotion organisation, said at the SIAL show in Paris yesterday. With 130 trade exhibitors, the United Kingdom is third largest contributor to the exhibition and the British Sandwich Association has a leading role among the British stands.

"Some 50 Monoprix supermarkets in Paris now receive sandwiches direct from Britain every day," Dominique Mine, director of Food from Britain in France, said. "Buckingham Foods make the sandwiches in Milton Keynes one day and have them on sale in Paris next morning still with a two or three-day shelf life in which they can be sold."

British sandwiches are also now sold in other French supermarket chains and in Delhaize stores in Belgium. Buckingham exports more than a dozen varieties, all made in English bread with imaginative fillings - unlike the simple ham or cheese baguettes to which the French are accustomed.

Other companies in France assemble British sandwiches from ingredients supplied from Britain. Fresh Food Village sells its sandwiches in France's Prunerie stores. A

company in Brittany packs English sandwiches in gas-flushed packets which give the product a shelf life of up to 14 days.

Peter Bartlett, managing director of Breadwinners, whose sandwiches sell in Tesco, Sainsbury and Harrods, said: "The principal problem at the moment is that the French cannot get their head around the idea of chilled fresh food delivered just in time for immediate consumption. They do not understand the logistics."

Mr Bartlett was, though, on the look-out for competent retailers who might take an interest in a cosmopolitan range of sandwiches, from roasted vegetables in focaccia to chicken and mixed leaves in a French baguette. Other recipes include Edam cheese and apple and mozzarella and sun-dried tomato paste, not forgetting BLT.

Most exotic of all is a Valentine Day sandwich with chocolate bread and a filling of mascarpone, peach and passion fruit. There is even a surprise chocolate in the pack, as what the French would call a *bonne bouche*.

Two British bagel companies are also at the show, hoping to follow in the wake of the sandwiches' success - Ridles Bagel Company and Mr Bagel. "We are already exporting to Spain, Gibraltar and Greece," said Dave Nickisson, on the Mr Bagel stand. "The bagels already on the market are too hard and too chewy. Ours are soft and pliable, and we are introducing at this show a pizza bagel as a new product to add to our cinnamon and raisin and poppy-seed versions."

An earl's whim that changed our diet

WHEN, in 1762, John Montagu, the 4th Earl of Sandwich, slapped a slice of beef between two pieces of toast because he was too busy concentrating on the gaming tables to eat properly, he had no idea that his inventiveness would one day lead to a business worth £2 billion a year (Russell Jenkins writes).

The industry has grown so large that it requires the British Sandwich Association to look after its interests. Britons spend £5.2 million a day on ready-made sandwiches, consuming 1.3



The first sandwich-man

billion a year from 8,000 outlets. A survey published last July disclosed that the Scots are particularly enthusiastic sandwich-eaters. The late Elvis Presley's gargantuan sandwich concoctions are legendary.

However, the biggest sandwich ever made was created in Taipei. It was 2,000 ft long, with 1,320 lbs of bread and 3,080 lbs of filling.

Sandwiches call for caution and hygienic handling. They are a magnet for bacteria. In 1994 there were 82,000 incidents of food poisoning reported to the Public Health Laboratory in Colindale, north London.

About one-third of the population eat a sandwich they have bought ready-made every day. Around 94 per cent admit to eating one at least once a month.

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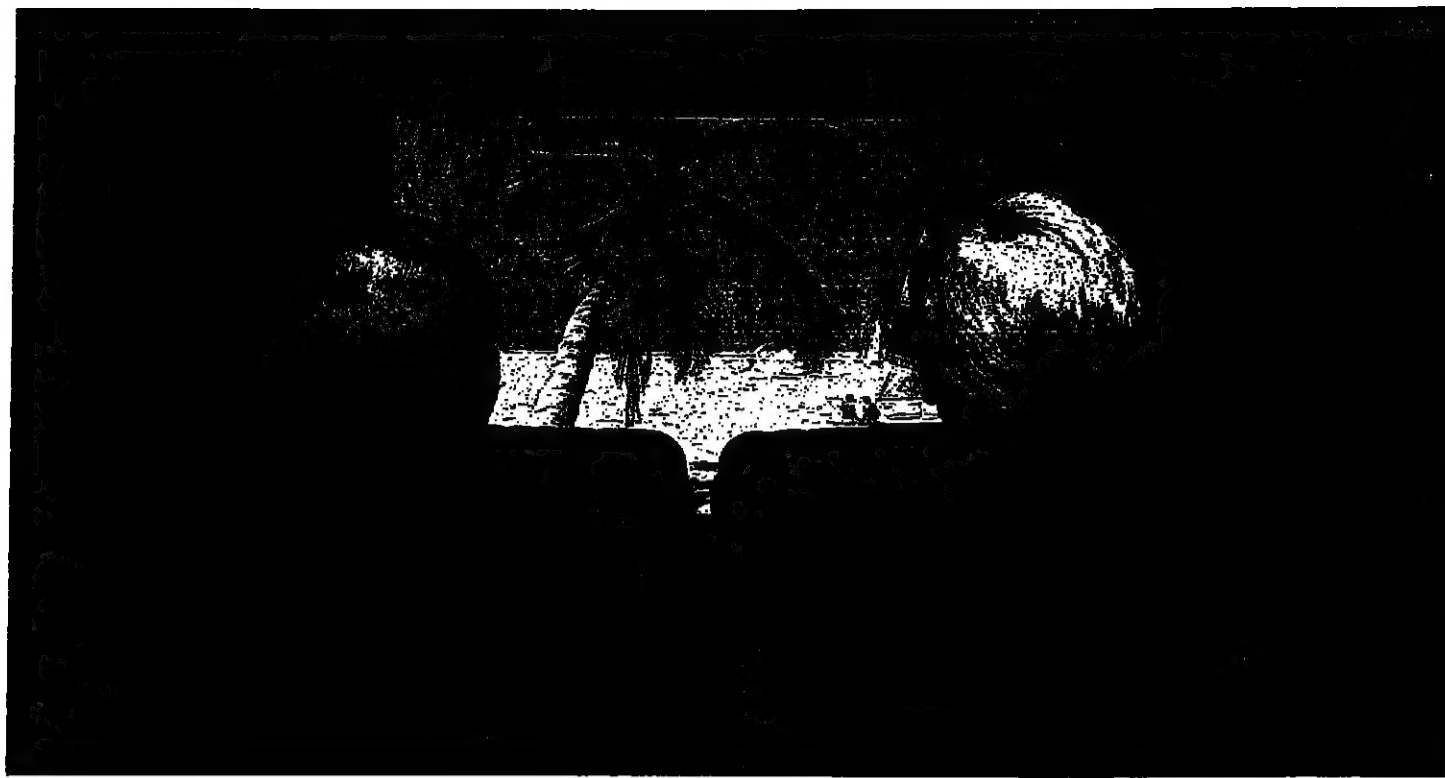
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Grassroots movement grows as the Government salutes courage of dead teacher's wife

Thousands back widow's call for good citizenship



Mrs Lawrence yesterday: she wants to "banish violence"

By JOANNA BAILE

THOUSANDS of people have backed Frances Lawrence's call for a national debate about ways of tackling violence and promoting good citizenship.

They expressed their support in telephone calls, faxes and letters to *The Times* and to Mrs Lawrence's home in Ealing, west London, over the past three days. Many were from concerned parents and teachers, whom Mrs Lawrence wants to see leading a nationwide grassroots movement "dedicated to healing our fractured society and banishing violence".

Lynne Drewett told how she set up a neighbourhood scheme in February to combat youth crime in

Swanscombe and Greenhithe near Dartford, Kent, after her 16-year-old son was arrested with other teenagers for a petty offence. She said: "We hope Mrs Lawrence will be an inspiration to others to do something in their area."

"As a parent I wanted to help my son and teenagers like him in a practical way. We spoke to youths on the streets and the police to find out why young people were turning to crime. We then organised a summer scheme for younger children to keep them occupied during the school holidays and a drop-in centre for older ones."

"Unfortunately, the drop-in centre was wrecked by the very teenagers it was meant for. We are finding it a struggle to get support

to continue so we welcome Mrs Lawrence's campaign. We hope that people will be encouraged to give practical and financial support to schemes like ours."

Jeane Turner, a former teacher at an inner city school in Sheffield said that the problem of failing standards of discipline and morals in schools was partly due to the trend of older teachers being made redundant to make way for younger, cheaper staff. She suggested that one way of enhancing teachers' status — which Mrs Lawrence has called for — would be to keep older, more experienced staff.

She said: "There are few teachers in their fifties left with the expertise to encourage morality and family values in the classroom. People

from my generation want to do something to help but no one wants to employ us in any position of authority because we are considered too old. I hope Mrs Lawrence's campaign can change that so that people of all ages can work together to solve these problems."

Shirley Day of Biggles, Hertfordshire said: "In recent years I have watched my brains about what I can do to help solve the problems that Mrs Lawrence talks about. Sadly, with all her grief, she has got the opportunity now to do this."

"Every age group has its problems — all the decent things have fallen by the wayside. We all have something to learn from this and I would like to congratulate *The Times* for conveying it in such a

moving way." Margaret Morrissey of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations said her members backed Mrs Lawrence's call for a ban on combat knives.

She said: "It would make sense whilst dealing with the gun laws to include knife laws. One wonders why this has not already been done. It would be naive to think that this would erase knives and guns from our streets but it must help."

The group also called for more government support for some of Mrs Lawrence's other aspirations, such as raising the status of police and teachers. Mrs Morrissey added: "Successive Secretaries of State and Ministers have and still do

criticise our teachers. It may not be their intention to lower the teachers' standing in the eyes of the public, but that is what happens. Sadly it will take more years to rebuild the status of our professional people than it took the Government to smash it."

Philip Shepherd of Imagine Nations United, a British-based international group which campaigns against violence, said: "Mrs Lawrence's initiative is a catalyst for the shift in attitudes which is so desperately needed."

He is organising a linking of hands from Edinburgh to London in May to express unity and sympathy for victims of violence, and to promote anti-violence initiatives among young people.

Shepherd says crusade gives edge to plan to teach morality

By DAVID CHARTER AND JILL SHERMAN

CITIZENSHIP lessons will be tried out in schools across the country as part of the Government's drive to promote values in the classroom. Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, said yesterday.

Mrs Shepherd said she was inspired by the example of Frances Lawrence and wanted an agreed moral code adopted by schools.

Mrs Shepherd said she would consider accelerating the work of the National Forum for Values in Education on preparing a code after speaking to the widow of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster stabbed to death as he intervened to protect a pupil attacked outside his school.

The forum was set up by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority to consult widely on ten new "commandments" for the classroom and plans for citizenship lessons when the national curriculum is revised in 2000.

Mrs Shepherd said: "I spoke to Mrs Lawrence on Saturday and I am well aware that she wants a debate and not a manifesto at this stage. We both know more than education is involved. SCAA will implement a two-year pilot of guidance materials in preparation for the next review of the curriculum. It seems to me a very great deal of the work of the authority answers a lot of the points raised by Mrs Lawrence and her debate will help give some urgency to its work. We will see whether we need to accelerate the work and there will be nothing placed in the way of the pilot."

Mrs Shepherd and David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, appeared to try to outbid each other in their response to Mrs Lawrence's manifesto to curb violence in society. Mr Blunkett said that Labour would introduce classes in good citizenship as part of the national curriculum for primary and secondary schools.

He admitted that there were constraints in timetabling for the national curriculum, but that room should be found for civic lessons. Mr Blunkett said

the intention was "to ensure that the teaching of citizenship is central to the development of young people from the earliest possible moment". Aides said this would involve the teaching of old-fashioned "civics" — how society and government works — mixed with rights and responsibilities.

Children would be taught the basics of right and wrong and lessons could involve visits from local policemen, or other members of the local community, such as vicars. Mr Blunkett pointed out that the lessons would also fit in with Labour's plans for a

to the self, to relationships, to society and to the environment. A statement about what these values mean and how pupils can demonstrate them would form the basis of citizenship lessons, delivered through guided debate.

The authority will also propose community service for all youngsters, such as helping the elderly. Trainee teachers will be given more instruction in religious and secular moral traditions.

Mrs Shepherd said she was "very impressed" with Mrs Lawrence. "What a brave person. I imagine this is all bringing it back hideously and I hope it is helping her cope at this time. She is amazing."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said all teachers would fully support Mrs Lawrence's message, but he called for schools to take their own stand against indiscipline by expelling children who broke codes of behaviour.

He said: "I believe the time for firm action is long overdue. Schools must show by example that serious disruption and violence simply will not be tolerated." It was no accident, Mr de Gruchy said, that Philip Lawrence had found it necessary to expel 60 pupils during his brief time at St George's School, Maida Vale, west London. Others should follow his example.

Parents, as well as schools, needed to play their part and a Good Parenting Agency should be established. "A Good Parenting Agency could be charged with going out into the community to contact families and try to show them by example how their own interests would be better served by more positive and active parenting," he said.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said that as far as head teachers were concerned Mrs Lawrence was "pushing at an open door".

Libby Purves, page 18
Michael Howard, page 18

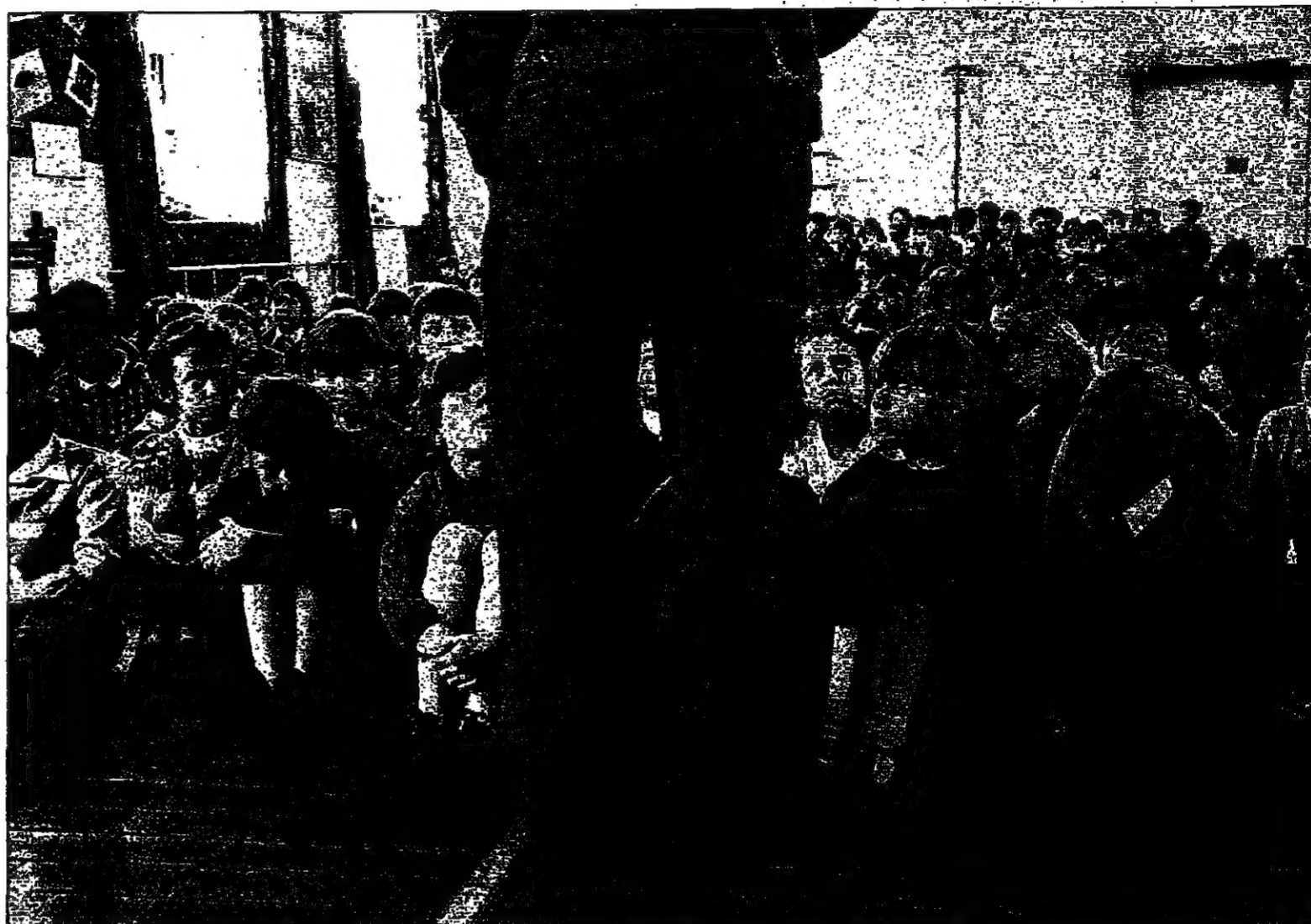


Shepherd: inspired by Frances Lawrence

national citizens' service for young people who had left school. They would help with keeping the environment clean and other community duties, such as helping the disabled and elderly.

Labour also plans to address Mrs Lawrence's specific call for improvements in teaching. Mr Blunkett has set out a series of proposals which includes the sacking of bad teachers, improving the quality of teacher-training and introducing a probationary year for new teachers.

The SCAA will begin consultation next month on a moral code centred around four key values: those related



Learning for life: children will be taught moral values and good citizenship under plans to improve standards from both major parties

Scots address problems A slice of pizza from first day at school for polite pupils

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

CHILDREN in Scotland learn the rights and responsibilities of good citizens, together with the importance of values such as respect and honesty, from the day they start school.

Guidelines published three years ago by the Scottish Consultative Council on the Curriculum are aimed at developing positive attitudes in young people aged 5 to 14 and helping them to grow towards "effective citizenship". Teachers are asked to ensure that themes such as respect and caring for self and others, social responsibility, a commitment to learning and a sense of belonging underpin all lessons, from sport to mathematics.

Many primaries and all secondary schools also run weekly citizenship classes, known as personal and social development, in which children spend an hour learning what it means to be a right-thinking member of society.

Jan Campbell, head teacher at Glendale Primary

School in Glasgow, said: "The vast majority are good citizens but there are now lots of issues which make life more complex for young people. We have to give them strict standards of how we expect them to behave and encourage them to behave."

At Glendale, which takes children from one of Glasgow's most deprived areas, pupils tackle abstract moral issues, such as trust, honesty, respect and responsibility for their actions, through a mixture of games, role-playing and discussion.

Mrs Campbell has adopted a method known as "circle time", in which children sit in a circle to talk about a topic. They may learn about respect through discussing bullying and acting out how it feels from both sides. They then talk about feelings and are encouraged to discuss why such behaviour is not acceptable. Developing non-violent responses to problem-solving is an important part.

At Bellahouston Primary,

which has a racially mixed intake from deprived areas of greater Govan, good citizenship starts with children being given a sense of belonging to the school community. Through themed lessons spanning all curriculum subjects, they are taught that with "belonging" come responsibilities for themselves, others within the school and for the buildings.

Rewarding children for good behaviour rather than simply punishing bad behaviour is an important part of the school's ethos.

George MacBride, who runs the development classes at Govan High School, believes citizenship lessons are about empowering young people by raising their expectations, helping them to make informed choices and achieve their potential. To do this, Govan High works towards giving pupils the emotional, social and practical skills they need for adult life, as well as instilling a sense of self-respect.

PLAGUED by lack of discipline, drug abuse and violence, American schools regularly promote citizenship programmes to encourage good behaviour.

New Hampshire has led the field since the state adopted a policy advocating character and citizenship education eight years ago and made it mandatory for teachers to be trained in the topic. At first attracting controversy — parents felt it was an agenda imposed either by the religious Right or the liberal Left — the system has since become popular throughout America, across party lines.

The language of the policy in New Hampshire and many other states is intentionally broad, leaving districts to decide how they should teach values in their own schools. Some employ a system of incentives while others recognise responsible conduct by placing students on a non-academic roll of honour. In schools in Virginia, for example, children are graded in as

many as eight areas of citizenship, including responsibility, obeying rules and being truthful and courteous.

Elsewhere the reward is more tangible. Peacock Middle School in Chicago started a school lottery last year, providing tickets to all children who behaved with exceptional courtesy. The result was a 53 per cent drop in suspensions and a dramatic decline in the number of detentions meted out to students.

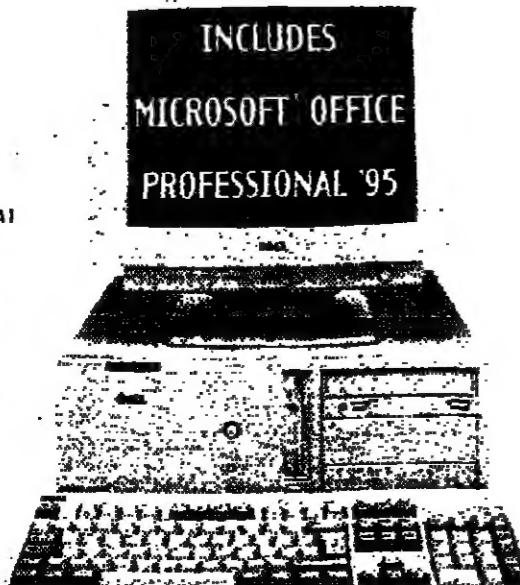
Each Friday, Reinhardt Nickisch draws three tickets, representing different age grades, and reads the winners over the school intercom. Prizes include pizzas, ice-creams and toys donated by local shops. This year a grand draw will include a stereo system and a bicycle.

"The lottery may sound like a bribe," Janet Lynch, the local guidance counsellor, said, "but it promotes good behaviour because the kids realise that bad behaviour is not getting them the attention that good behaviour does."

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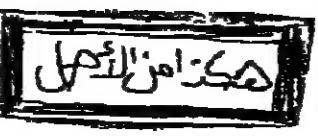
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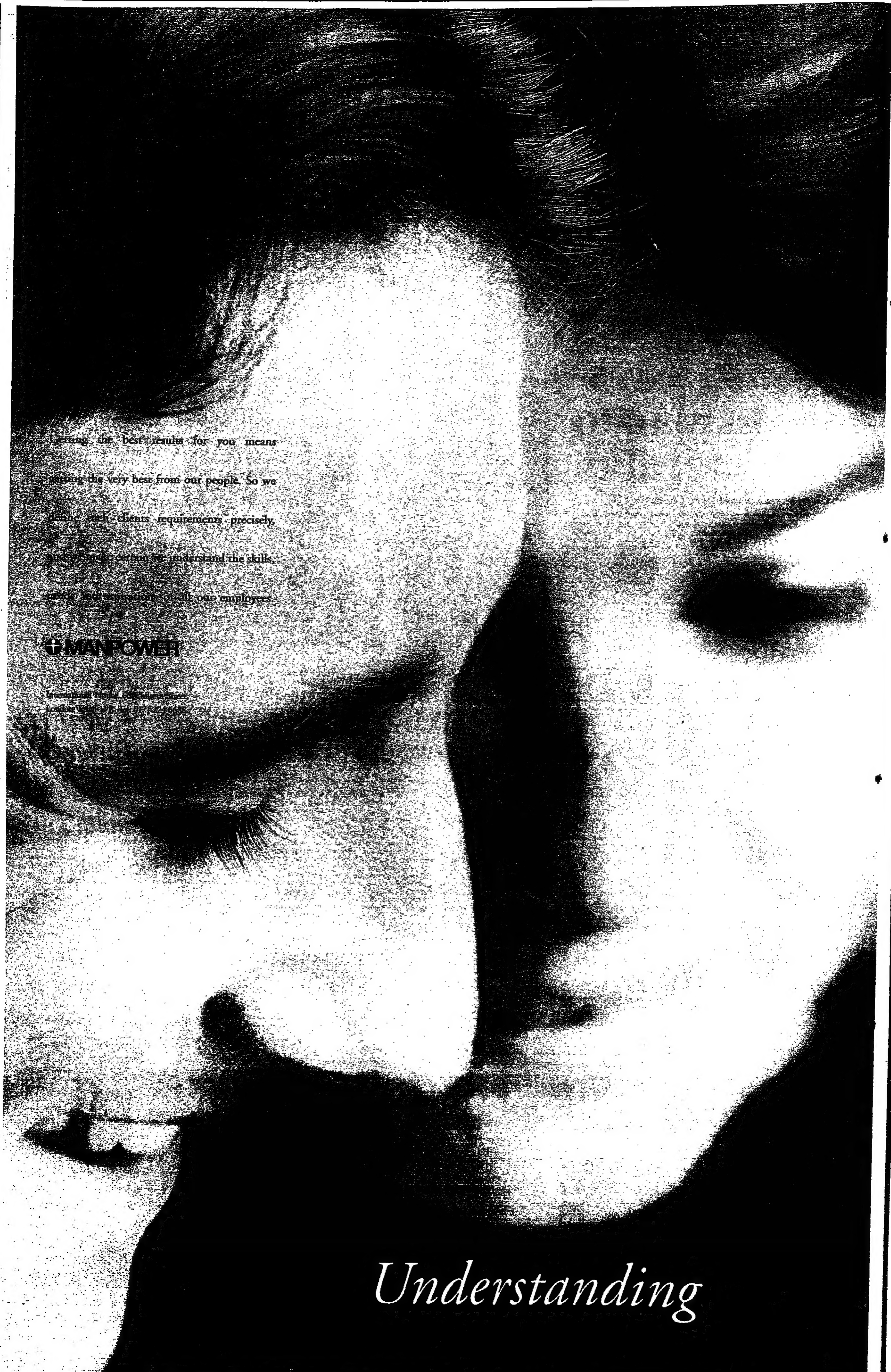
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Scots will have to pay to see Stone of Scone in Edinburgh

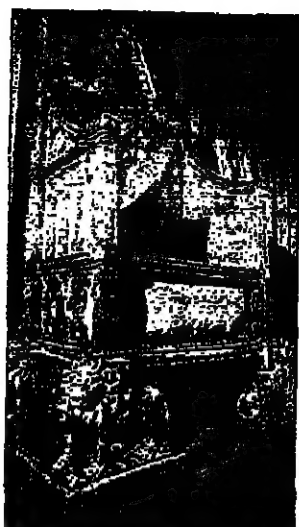
By ALAN HAMILTON

VISITORS will have to pay up to £5.50 each to see the Stone of Scone, the talisman of Scottish nationhood that has lain in Westminster Abbey for 700 years, when it is placed in Edinburgh Castle next month.

As a concession to nationalist sentiment Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, has agreed that entry will be free on two days each year: St Andrew's Day and a day in April before Edinburgh's tourist season starts in earnest. At present visitors pay up to £4 to see the stone in the Royal Chapel at Westminster Abbey.

Mr Forsyth announced yesterday that the stone, a 33lb block of sandstone believed to have been the coronation chair of ancient Scottish kings, would be unveiled in its new home on November 30 - St Andrew's Day - in the same tiny room in the castle that houses the Honours of Scotland, Europe's oldest collection of crown jewels.

Mr Forsyth's decision is a



The Stone of Scone

disappointment for Scone Palace, near Perth, from where the stone was removed by Edward I in 1296 to underline Scotland's failed hopes of independence. The Scottish Office said yesterday that the palace, open to the public but

still privately owned by the Earl of Mansfield, did not have the facilities or security to cope, but left open the possibility that the stone could be moved there in the future.

Edinburgh Castle, which has one million visitors a year, has no historic connection with the stone. The Scottish Office announcement yesterday said that the castle had been chosen after 113 suggestions from the public as to where the stone should be sited. The castle was the most popular; the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh was also strongly favoured.

Other contenders included the ancient abbeys of Dunfermline and Arbroath, important sites in Scottish history, and the New Ardington Bar in Glasgow, where the stone is said to have rested briefly on its way from London after being stolen from Westminster Abbey by nationalist students in 1950.

George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead, even suggested that the stone

be returned to Palestine, as tradition says that it was originally the pillow on which Jacob rested his head. Much will be made of the stone's progress north from Westminster Abbey, which is giving up one of its outstanding historic relics with reluctance, but is obliged to bow to the wishes of the Queen, who has sanc-

tioned the move. The stone will have a military escort on its road journey north, will be feted with a ceremony as it crosses the border and be dedicated at a service in St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, on St Andrew's Day.

Some Scots have condemned the return of the stone to Scotland as one of the

cheapest political tricks pulled by a Tory Government in more than 16 years in power. Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, said recently that it showed the Tories' approach to Scotland to be "all stunts and no substance". Roseanna Cunningham, SNP MP for Perth and Kinross, which includes

Scone, said the decision to allow two days a year free access was "a massive snub to Scots, whose property the stone is".

George Robertson, Shadow Scottish Secretary, repeated demands for a Scottish parliament "and not just the historical symbols of Scotland's power".



The Crown Room in Edinburgh Castle, where the stone will go on display beside the Honours of Scotland

Pensioners inherit £5m worth of fun

By PAUL WILKINSON

PENSIONERS are to benefit from a £5 million bequest from an eccentric millionaire who died seven years ago.

Douglas Kellett, of Chester-le-Street, Durham, who made his fortune in coal mining, brickmaking and importing tea, left the money to a charity in the North East with instructions for it to be spent on making life brighter for the elderly of the region. He died, aged 83, in 1989 but the money was released only yesterday after the death at 81 of his widow, Gwen, last month. The couple were childless and had decided their extended family already had enough money.

George Hepburn, director of the Tyne and Wear Foundation, which will look after the money, including the £250,000 annual interest, said: "It could incorporate new centres for the elderly where there would be activities, leisure centres and arts provision. I hope it is not just spent on Zimmer frames and nursing care."

Reluctance to sell leads to housing market stalemate

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE number of properties for sale has dropped to the lowest for eight years, frustrating people wanting to move.

A survey of the past quarter by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors found that although the housing market was enjoying an upturn, owners were reluctant to put their properties on the market. Ian Perry of the RICS, which has 90,000 members, said the shortage was at its worst in the South of England but was becoming a problem elsewhere.

He said that reluctance to sell stemmed from hopes of further, sometimes over-optimistic, price rises. People willing to sell could not find a suitable property to buy.

Mr Perry said: "This stalemate in the market is exacerbated by the remnants of negative equity and the promise of windfalls next year as a result of several leading building societies converting into banks. The scarcity of property is forcing up prices and desirable properties are being sold extremely quickly, giving the false impression that a boom is imminent."

A survey by the National Association of Estate Agents found that 76 per cent of its

members said demand was outstripping supply; nearly 40 per cent of agents said they had witnessed gazumping. The worst affected areas are London and the Home Counties, where good quality family homes are routinely sold before the particulars can be printed.

Paddy Stewart Morgan, from Cluttons, said: "Within a 50-mile radius of London, demand has been exceeding supply for the past nine to twelve months, especially for character houses. Properties within the £300,000 to £400,000 bracket are in greatest demand thanks to city bonuses, the feeling that the market is on the move, and low interest rates."

The RICS survey found that the number of houses for sale was down by a third on a year earlier. More positively, Mr Perry said, prices were continuing to rise throughout the country. Four-bedroom and two to three-bedroom pre-1960 houses remain the most popular properties.

The report concludes that prices will moderate early next year and that the future growth of the housing market is now in the hands of those wishing to sell.

North Wales Tribunal of Inquiry into child abuse.

Can you help?

A Tribunal investigating allegations relating to the abuse of children in care in the former county council areas of Gwynedd and Clwyd between 1974 and 1996, is being held in 1997. The Chairman invites any such persons including former residents of the homes, former foster children, families, staff and the general public to come forward with any evidence relating to the inquiry.

If you have evidence which you think might help, either from your personal experience or if you know somebody who was involved, you are invited to contact the Tribunal team by freephoning them on 0800 329321 or by writing to the following address:

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Nature group seeks protection for harmless giant facing extinction in British waters

Oriental appetite for fins threatens the basking shark

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

SOARING demand for shark fins used in oriental cooking has led to a steep rise in the global price and fears that the basking shark could become extinct in British waters.

Government wildlife advisers are trying to have *Cetorhinus maximus* listed as a protected species amid fears that fishermen desperate to make a living as traditional fish stocks fall will target the shark to supply the lucrative Far Eastern trade.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), with backing from groups including the Marine Conservation Society, is urging the Government to list the shark under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. It would make the basking shark, whose numbers have been falling worldwide, the first shark to be protected by British laws. The price of

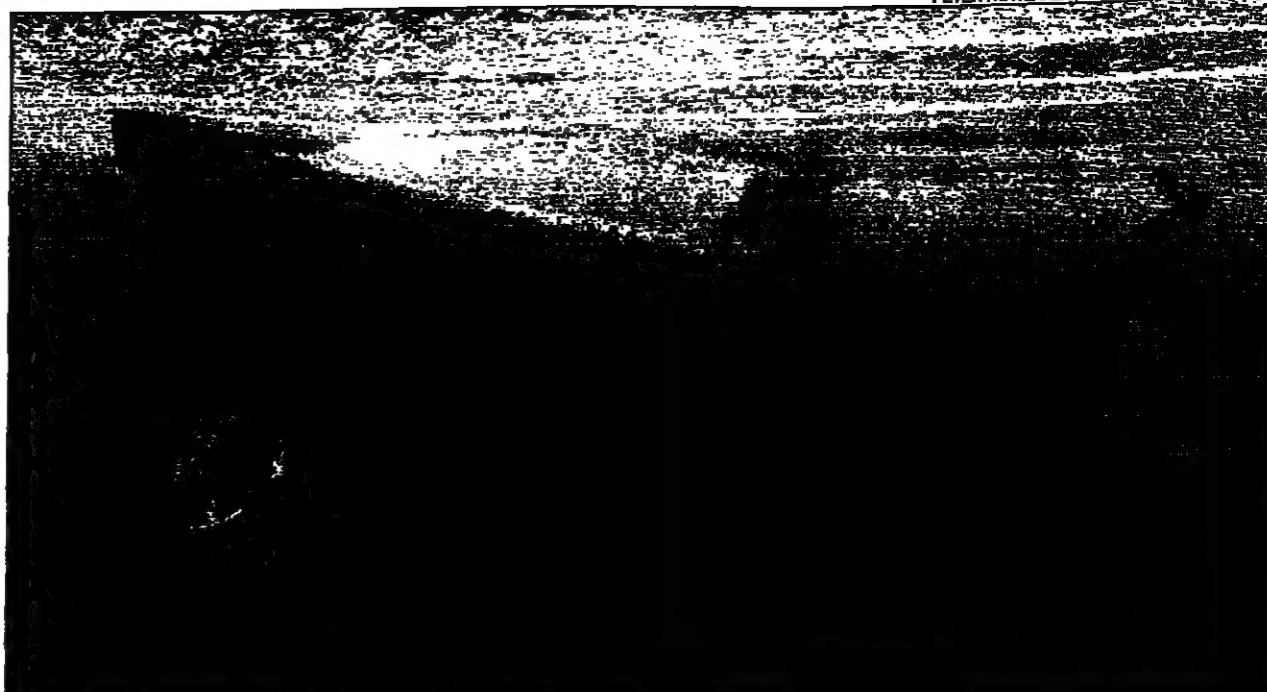
the delicacy has almost doubled to more than £28 a kilogram in just four years as demand has soared and sharks in some Far Eastern waters have been fished to the brink of extinction. Sam Pollard of the Marine Conservation Society said yesterday: "We need to act now before the price goes through the roof."

The main threat facing basking sharks in this country is from Norwegian fishermen. They have a European Commission-approved quota to harpoon 300 basking sharks a year in British waters. In return, British fishermen have the right to catch a quota of white fish in Norwegian waters. Dr Clare Eno, of the marine section of the JNCC, described the size of the shark quota as "outrageous... and unsustainable". One British fisherman, based on the

Clyde, fished basking sharks but his boat was recently decommissioned. Nevertheless the experts fear that fishermen here could resume catching basking sharks at any time as the stocks of more traditional species are squeezed by overfishing and a cut in EC quotas.

"Given the state of the fishing fleet, you only need a few collapses of stocks before people might start turning to shark fins. Once that happens you will never get it stopped and the population would soon be devastated," Dr Eno said.

There is also evidence that basking sharks — at 45ft the second largest fish after the whale shark, but harmless to man — are being harassed and killed for fun in British waters. Last year a shoal sighted in Carlyn Bay, Corn-



A basking shark feeding on plankton: harmless to man, there is evidence that it is being harassed off our shores

wall, was chased by power boats and jet skiers. There were several cases of basking sharks being found dead off the Welsh and southwest English coasts with deep cuts on their heads, thought to have been caused by boat hooks used to kill the animals and tow them alongside before being dumped.

The legal listing, which has

been proposed to John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, would make it illegal to hunt, harass or deliberately injure a basking shark. Dr Eno said it was the first step to getting protection for the shark across European waters.

A meeting in Birmingham later this week, organised by the Sea Life Centres, will set

up a European Elasmobranch (the class of fish including sharks) Society to further the cause of sharks generally and the basking shark in particular.

The Department of the Environment said: "We would hope to bring in an amendment to the Act in the spring. There is a groundswell of opinion in favour of listing the

basking shark." A spokesman said the views of the Scottish Office would be crucial to securing the go-ahead. A few years ago it blocked a similar move, upholding fishermen's rights over conservation interests.

A few weeks ago the basking shark was listed as vulnerable by the World Conservation Union.

'SAS man' escapes charges over book

A bestselling author who admitted his book about an SAS death squad in Ulster was fiction will not be prosecuted for wasting police time. Paul Inman, of Weston-super-Mare, Avon, was arrested by murder squad detectives after he claimed in *The Nemesis File*, written under the name Paul Bruce, he was part of a gang that killed at least 30 IRA suspects and Roman Catholics.

Group 4 deal

Group 4 has won a £49 million contract to ferry inmates to court from 16 prisons in the North of England. The contract, for seven years, is expected to save the taxpayer £25 million a year. The Prison Service said the bid "represented the best combination of service and value for money".

Walker dead

A walker who disappeared in the Austrian Alps in June has been found dead by a hunter. Chris Broome, a sound engineer from Oxfordshire, had been on a hiking trip. He is believed to have strayed from a mountain path and fallen 50 metres into a gully. An inquest will be held in Britain.

Bridlepath ban

Conservationists have won a five-year fight to ban four-wheel drive vehicles from a bridleway in Glatton, Cambridgeshire, in John Major's Huntingdon constituency. After four public inquiries and a High Court hearing the Environment Department has agreed it should not be a byway.

School eviction

A former nursing sister at Harrow School has failed to halt her eviction from the flat she shares with her husband at the school. Marilyn and Roy Edey had asked the Court of Appeal to block a possession order until after her unfair dismissal case in December.

Goalposts death

Emma Barber, 2, died in hospital after a set of goalposts fell on her as she played with friends on a playing field in Ipswich, Suffolk. The children had gone to the field in the dark after a football match while the teams were preparing for a social evening.

Parent power

Parents of pupils at Cheltenham College have called a meeting with members of the school's governing body to demand the reinstatement of the headmaster. Peter Wilkes, 55, who was forced to resign when the school slipped in the examination league tables.

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The Duke of Edinburgh after his recent surgery

The outdoor life leaves its mark



MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE skin of the Duke of Edinburgh's nose, before his recent surgery, would have made an excellent topic for discussion on a teaching ward round.

Changes in the skin can affect any part of an adult's body at any time, but are particularly common in fair-skinned people who have been exposed to the sun. The skin of the face and forearms is particularly vulnerable to skin cancers. Because they wear skirts, women may have suspicious lesions on their lower legs. The Duke's case illustrates all the risk factors: he is fair-skinned, lives an outdoor life and served in the Navy in the Mediterranean and the Far East, where the sun reflected off the sea is particularly damaging.

Most skin lesions removed are benign — as is assumed to be the case with the Duke's. Even in most of those cases in which lesions are cancerous, the malignancy is of a low order. If there is any doubt, an area is removed for study. Basal cell carcinomas,

known as rodent ulcers, are common around the face. Sometimes they appear as a small scaly red ulcer that won't heal, at other times like a pearly seed buried in the skin. They never spread to distant parts of the body. If they are carefully excised, the cure is complete. If they are allowed to grow, it can be impossible to remove them, and they can eat away the face.

Epitheliomas, the standard skin cancers that appear in the skin of people subjected to too much sun, are usually caught at a very early stage and normally respond to non-surgical treatment.

A malignant melanoma — a cancerous mole — is highly lethal if neglected. Patients and doctors look for changes in size and colour of the mole, an irregular outline and a patchy uneven colour. Later, the mole may ulcerate, bleed, itch or become very raised.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

AS man's
scapes
charges
er book

Lost Gandhi papers shed light on months before his murder

By John Vincent

IN A previously unknown collection of handwritten papers, Mahatma Gandhi lectures Mountbatten, accuses Churchill of disservice to India and laments the tragedy befalling his beloved country.

The dusty manuscripts, which detail the last few months of the Indian leader's life, include the backs of old letters, envelopes and circulars and are written in a cursive, schoolmasterly English. The archive, which surfaced after languishing in a cupboard in Madras for almost half a century, has been valued at up to £800,000 and comes up for auction at Phillips next month.

After Gandhi's assassination by a Hindu fanatic in January 1948, drafts of speeches and letters by the man venerated as a moral teacher, reformer and dedicated patriot were safely stored by his devoted chief secretary V. Kalyanram, now in his seventies. Exactly when Mr Kalyanram obtained the papers is not clear, but he seems to have been given them for safekeeping either just before or just after Gandhi's death. Proceeds from the sale of the three loosely bound volumes will go towards the construction of a Hindu temple.

They contain drafts of important letters, magazine articles and "Monday speeches", delivered by a follower

my statue!
There is a table in Bombay
of spending ten lacs of
rupees on erecting my
statue on a public site.
I have received
several letters criticiz-

The start of a note about the "extravagant" cost of a proposed statue

on Gandhi's day of silence. Many of the leader's more famous utterances on Indian independence are included, as well as his vow "to do or die" in bringing peace to Delhi.

The archive covers his last fast, the days leading up to his assassination and the prologue to his last will and testament. The letters and speeches, complete with crossings-out and alterations, are written in English in a plain notebook or on any paper to hand.

In a ten-page letter to Earl Mount-

batten of Burma seven weeks before independence, Gandhi writes: "I pointed out the initial mistake of the British being party to splitting India into two. It is not possible to undo the mistake. [But] the very admirable doctrine of fair play... demands that I do not help the mistaken party to fancy that the mistake was no mistake."

There is also the original draft for a speech defending the newly independent India from attacks by Winston Churchill over the scale of butchery in

the country. Churchill was a great man, one of the "blue blood" of England, he said. But, he added: "Mr Churchill had rendered a disservice to the nation of which he was a great servant. If he knew the fate that would befall India after she became free from the British yoke, did he for a moment stop to think that the blame belonged to the builders of the Empire?"

Many of the documents reflect Gandhi's horror at the violence between Hindus and Muslims that disfigured independence. After an exhaustive tour of Delhi, he described the new capital as "a city of the dead".

In a speech to workers in a Delhi cloth mill in 1947, Gandhi says that he would rather die than witness further violence. Writing in the third person, he says: "He had made his final choice. He had no desire to live to see the ruin of India through fratricide. His incessant prayer was that God would remove him before any such calamity descended upon their fair land."

Felix Fryor, Phillips's manuscripts consultant, spent a month sifting through the documents, deciphering the crabbled handwriting and putting the scripts in chronological order and historical context. He said: "It is difficult to over-emphasise the importance of this archive. It is like stumbling across Shakespeare's original draft for King Lear."



A portrait of Gandhi taken in 1947, estimated to fetch £1,000 to £1,500 at auction

Yachtsman faces trial for ramming German U-boat

By A Staff Reporter

THE MASTER of a yacht faces court action after his vessel accidentally rammed a German U-boat in Portsmouth Harbour. Wob Gerretsen's crew could see only the top of the submarine and, in the dusk, thought it was a buoy.

Mr Gerretsen injured his arm in the impact although his soft yacht, *Harvest*, escaped serious damage and none of his crew of six were injured. The German government says the 159ft U22 submarine sustained about £20,000 of damage in the incident.

Mr Gerretsen, a Dutch national who works in Britain, was sailing *Harvest* to Holland when the collision occurred. The submarine was entering Portsmouth Harbour for the Navy Days festival.

Mr Gerretsen said the main structure of the submarine did not appear damaged but believed the high cost of repairs could be because the bow of his yacht sliced into a sonar dome.

He is being prosecuted by the Ministry of Defence for failing to keep a proper lookout and is due to appear before magistrates at Portsmouth on November 25. If convicted he

could face up to two years in prison. He could also face a private action from the German Government for compensation after the accident on the evening of May 24.

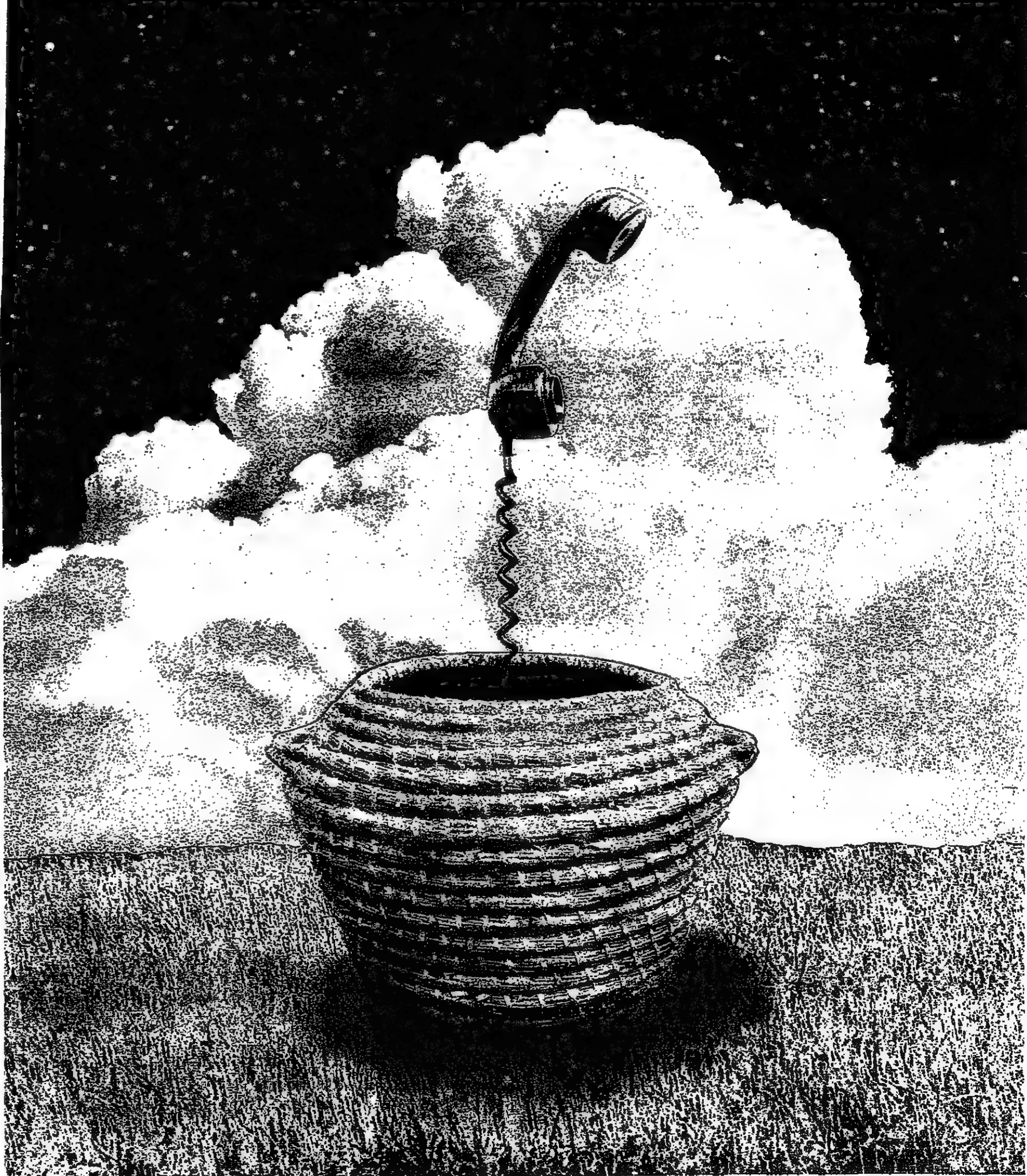
Mr Gerretsen, 52, of Chobham, Surrey, claimed that the submarine had not been properly lit. "Visibility was very poor at the time and the crew saw a black object which they didn't recognise," he said. "They thought it was a buoy and tried to avoid it but when they got closer it turned out to be a German submarine."

The submarine was about five to six feet out of the water, with the tower about 10ft above the waterline, Mr Gerretsen said.

"It was all painted black and submarines are made not to be seen. It was too late to take any action. All I could do was brace myself. They claimed they had their lights on, but I don't think they had - that is something only the courts can decide."

A spokesman for the military department of the German Embassy in London said that if the court case proved Mr Gerretsen was to blame his Government would seek compensation.

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Chancellor signals millennial ambitions as party rewards him with collective embrace

Kohl's people champion cause of common man

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL, the German Chancellor, yesterday shrugged aside his Government's serious financial crisis and declared European monetary union and a more politically integrated continent to be within reach. "Ladies and gentlemen, we will do it!" he bellowed to the applause of almost one thousand Christian Democratic delegates at the party conference.

Outside the Congress Centre in Hanover several hundred farmers hurled rotten apples at Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, and demanded a more active German policy on "mad cow disease".

"We expect you to speak up more strongly for our interests in Brussels," came the megaphoned demand from Wilhelm Niemeyer, Lower Saxony farmers' leader.

Inside, the delegates were not so much concerned with debate as polishing a monument. There was not a rotten apple in sight. Herr Kohl, party leader for 23 years, was elected again with the kind of majority that would have made Enver Hoxha, the former Albanian dictator, proud.

On October 31, the Chancellor will overtake Konrad Adenauer and become the longest-serving German leader this century, and so the party conference has become, even more than usual, a kind of collective embrace.

Bonn: German women were targeted by Helmut Kohl yesterday as the Chancellor, his popularity on the wane, tried to convince them that his Christian Democratic Party was not a closed club of blue-suited scoundrels (Roger Boyes writes).

"We are not a macho party," he said before the GDP dutifully voted at its annual conference to reserve 30 per cent of its posts for women, enabling more to enter parliament. At present they make up 25 per cent of the 700,000-strong party membership, but only 15 per cent of its deputies.

The move — it failed to get through last year — aims to show Herr Kohl as a moderniser and to win back those scared away by welfare cuts. But his party still lags behind the Greens — with a 50 per cent quota — and the Social Democrats, who reserve 40 per cent of their offices for women and have pledged that 40 per cent of elected posts will be allotted to them by 1998.

"It is the magic of kinship," said a starry-eyed young delegate from the east as Herr Kohl waded through the crowds on way to lunch.

The adulation of the conference is not reflected in the Chancellor's popularity in the country at large. A weekend opinion poll showed that in terms of personal popularity the Chancellor is only three points ahead of Gerhard Schröder, his likely Social Democratic challenger, and that his coalition is more dependent than ever on the survival of his junior coalition partner, the Free Democrats.

The Christian Democrats are, together with their Bavarian cousins, the Christian Social Union, the strongest party with 41 per cent but the Free Democrats are only just hovering above the 5 per cent mark needed for parliament.

ry representation. If the party collapses there will be little to stop the progress of a Social Democrat-Green alternative Government. Indeed, the polls show that an election held next Sunday would topple the Kohl Government or at least bring it to the very edge.

Then Waigel, the Finance Minister, is being blamed for a budgetary mess which has left Bonn struggling to find extra revenue in order to keep the country within the deficit criterion for entry to European monetary union.

The Free Democrats are under criticism for allowing an unpopular "solidarity" tax to stay in place. Over the past week the Free Democrats have lost their image as a tax-cutting party.

The Chancellor thus devoted an unusually large chunk of his speech to swearing

loyalty to the junior party. He gave a broad hint that the Christian Democrats should do all they can to support the Free Democrats.

"Every partner has to ensure the success of the other in a coalition government," he said. That meant clearly identifying the enemy — a potential Social Democrat-Green coalition — and fortifying the centre ground.

"We must stay firmly in the centre, rejecting extremes from right and from left, and also rejecting radical solutions," he said.

Thatcherism was out, he emphasised. "We are the party of the social market." Combating unemployment was the primary goal. The Christian Democrats had to present themselves, like the British Conservatives, as the party of the common man. Wealthy tax dodgers had to be pursued and the party had to set the tone for the country, claiming the moral high ground and stamping out corruption.

There was no avoiding a future European currency. "Peace and freedom are the priorities for the next century — and I say this again even though it has been deliberately misconstrued abroad — but, I warn you, peace and freedom do not come free, even for Germans."

The price of European security was European monetary union and a more efficient, better integrated Europe that was capable, for example, of fighting organised crime and



Helmut Kohl addresses the Christian Democratic party convention yesterday

drug mafias. "Since my first European summit in Copenhagen in December 1982, I have heard again and again that this will all never happen," Herr Kohl said. However, during the last Dublin summit, he had sensed a

"psychological breakthrough" and a deeply integrated union was now "irrevocable". Plainly the party wanted a commitment from the Chancellor that he would stand for re-election in October 1998.

He did not do so, but hinted that he would still be there when Germany staged the Expo 2000 exhibition. The whole millennial context of the Christian Democratic conference suggested that the Chancellor would still be at its helm in four years' time.

'Aids cure' scientist may face charges

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

A FRENCH medical researcher, whose "miracle drug" was allegedly used to treat the late François Mitterrand for cancer, has been placed under formal legal investigation on charges of illegally manufacturing medicine.

Mirko Beljanski, 73, a molecular biologist and former researcher at the prestigious Pasteur Institute, is the central figure in a bitter medical dispute in France, where he is regarded as a life-saving medical genius by some and a dangerous quack by others.

In 1989 Professor Beljanski, who was born in Yugoslavia and is not a medical doctor, claimed to have discovered an anti-viral treatment for cancer and Aids which he called BP100. The treatment was never officially authorised, but hundreds of cancer and Aids sufferers obtained the drug through various channels now under investigation.

One of Mitterrand's doctors prescribed BP100 for his prostate cancer, according to numerous French press reports which have never been denied by the former President's entourage. In 1994 the professor was found guilty of illegally practising medicine and the French Health Ministry formally banned his products. But Professor Beljanski allegedly continued to sell BP100 "under the table, convinced of the effectiveness of his discovery", according to *Le Figaro*.

Earlier this month police raided his laboratory after the legal authorities renewed charges of "illegally practising pharmacy and medicine" and launched a fresh assault on Professor Beljanski's network.

The French Association for Aids Research has conducted a rigorous examination of BP100, the precise ingredients of which are secret, and concluded that the medicine has no specific anti-viral effect. But an estimated 1,000 people in France are currently undergoing treatment with BP100. The pills cost around Fr1,500 (£189) a month.

Professor Beljanski claims he is the victim of an economic conspiracy. "The big pharmaceutical laboratories wanted to hold on to their markets," he said recently.

Former anti-Yeltsin plotter in landslide poll victory

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

GENERAL Aleksandr Rutskoi, one of President Yeltsin's most implacable enemies, staged a remarkable comeback yesterday when he scored a landslide victory in an election race for a powerful regional governorship.

General Rutskoi, who led the bloody uprising against the Kremlin leader in October 1993, won 79 per cent of the votes for the Kursk region, a rich agricultural area 300 miles south of Moscow. Vasilii Shuteyev, the Kremlin-backed incumbent, was roundly defeated, scoring only 18 per cent.

The victory automatically gives General Rutskoi a seat in the Federation Council, the upper house of parliament, and could catapult the mustachioed former fighter pilot back into the frontline of the opposition ranks.

"It is a serious defeat for democracy," said Sergei Belyaev, the head of the pro-government Our Home Is Russia faction in the Duma, the lower house of parliament.

General Rutskoi, who grew up in Kursk, first came to prominence in 1991 when President Yeltsin chose

him as his running-mate in Russia's first presidential elections.

However, relations between the two men quickly deteriorated as the former Afghan war hero sided with the hardline opposition against the Kremlin leader. The conflict came to a bloody end in October 1993 when General Rutskoi led the uprising against the Kremlin.

which responded by shelling the White House and arresting the leaders of the revolt.

General Rutskoi was jailed for several months and finally amnestied by parliament. He had operated in relative obscurity with-

in the Communist-led opposition until his victory yesterday. The win was particularly impressive since the local authorities had attempted to prevent him standing and he was only registered late last week, leaving him 36 hours to campaign.

The setback in Kursk was compounded by defeats for two other pro-Yeltsin governors, in the Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad and the central Russian region of Kirov.

Vyacheslav Nikonov, who helped engineer President Yeltsin's re-election victory this summer and is now one of the main campaign organisers for the regional polls,

predicted that the Kursk result could change the face of opposition politics in Russia.

"Rutskoi did not have a political platform before today, now he has a governorship and a seat in parliament," said Mr Nikonov. "He could become a major force in the opposition, perhaps even its future leader."

Ever since the defeat of Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist Party leader who came second in last summer's presidential race, the nationalist and left-wing opposition groups have been looking for a more charismatic figure to back.



Rutskoi: elected as governor with 79 per cent of vote

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IN BEN MACINTOSH
IN PARIS



Chirac will address the Palestinian legislature

Israelis frosty to Chirac

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JACQUES CHIRAC, the French President, arrived in Israel yesterday to a hostile reception from many right-wing supporters of the Government who dismissed him as a blatantly pro-Arab politician who had in the past sanctioned the sale of a nuclear reactor to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The official reception was correct but cool, with members of the Cabinet ruling out any question of the European Union dispatching its own Middle East envoy, as Mr Chirac had earlier advocated.

"We reject it completely," David Levy, the Foreign Minister, said.

Among those boycotting sections of Mr Chirac's two-day stay was Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee and a member of the ruling Likud party.

"The French President is hostile to Israel," he declared. "He is a prominent pro-Arab statesman, who called Saddam Hussein 'the Arab de Gaulle'."

Mr Chirac's last-minute decision to reverse his earlier refusal to visit the Knesset — although he will not to speak there — when tomorrow he will become the first foreign head of state to address the 88-seat Palestinian legislature in Ramallah, failed to mollify many Israelis.

Moshe Peled, the Deputy Education Minister, announced that he would walk out of the Knesset plenum the moment that Mr Chirac took his seat in protest against what he claimed was a slight both to the parliament and to the state of Israel.

Jailed star witness says First Lady to be indicted

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN HIS first interview from a prison cell, the Arkansas banker who helped to convict three former associates of President Clinton and his wife Hillary, claimed yesterday that the First Lady faced certain indictment after the American elections.

David Hale, the star prosecution witness in the Whitewater hearings and a former Arkansas political insider, said it was a "certainty" that Mrs Clinton would be charged by Kenneth Starr, the independent counsel, once the cloud of partisan politics had lifted after the polls in November. Mr Clinton could also face charges.

"I can tell you that Hillary is going to be indicted on 13 to 18 counts involving obstruction of justice, lying to federal investigators, and misleading federal regulators," Hale told *The Wall Street Journal*, the Clintons' journalistic nemesis.

"I believe some of the charges will relate to obstruction at the White House."

Hale, who is serving a 28-month sentence, predicted that Mr Clinton subsequently would immediately pardon both his wife and Jim Guy Tucker, the Arkansas Governor convicted on Whitewater charges.

Susan McDougal, a former Clinton partner in the failed Arkansas land deal who is serving a two-year sentence,

would not be granted an amnesty, the former banker said. The only witness to have claimed first-hand knowledge of the President's involvement in any crime, Hale has alleged that Mr Clinton put pressure on him to make a \$300,000 (£188,000) loan to Mrs McDougal in 1983. The White House has consistently described the allegation as a "bunch of bull."

Hale is still viewed as a credible witness in many quarters. In more than two years as a co-operative witness he has spent hundreds of hours with Mr Starr and his colleagues and is thought to know much about their evidence.

His statements appear to confirm a web of deceit that clung to the Clintons in Arkansas and followed them through the early years in Washington. He described the First Couple as the Harry and Harriet Houdinis of American politics, a pair of master escape artists.

Hale claimed that Mrs Clinton, as a lawyer in Arkansas, drafted a document that was used to deceive bank inspectors and divert a payment of \$300,000 to one of her partner's relatives.

Prosecutors are investigating the so-called Castle Grande deal in which Madison Guaranty, the bank at the heart of Whitewater, is said to have made loans to Seth Ward. Mr Ward's son-in-law, Webster Hubbell, was a Clinton law partner who is now languishing in prison for fraud.

Hale said Mrs Clinton, Mr Ward and Jim McDougal, the owner of Madison who has also been found guilty of fraud, all conspired to mislead federal regulators in the deal. He said Mr McDougal, whose sentencing has been delayed until after the elections and who is said to be co-operating with the Whitewater inquiry, has very significant information to offer about these transactions.



Hillary Clinton, accused by Hale of conspiring to deceive bank inspectors

Dole urges funding ban

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

BOB DOLE, the Republican candidate for the US presidency, has called for a fundamental overhaul of the American system of financing election campaigns — including a ban on donations from companies, unions, wealthy individuals and foreigners.

His move came in the wake of disclosures that the Democrats had taken \$700,000 (£440,000) in contributions from Indonesian and Korean companies. John Huang, the party fund-raiser responsible for the contributions, was removed from his duties on Friday while the foreign dona-

tions are investigated; some have been returned.

Democrats have replied that Mr Dole is an unlikely champion of electoral reform, having raised more than \$100 million in his political lifetime from the donors he now criticises. They also note that the Republican Party has returned a \$15,000 donation from a Canadian company.

The vulnerability of both parties to these charges emphasises why Mr Dole's move will have widespread appeal. Spending by both parties in this election, the most expensive in US history, has

prompted accusations that campaign finance rules, drawn up two decades ago after Watergate, are brazenly flouted.

The Washington Post has called the present system a "charade" and a "fig leaf", and claimed both candidates have made a final mockery of the campaign laws. Common Cause, a pressure group, has asked Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, to appoint an independent counsel to investigate spending by both the Dole and Clinton teams, and mount criminal prosecutions for any violations.

Hunt vote threatens Wild West lifestyle

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

THE old Wild West trapper of popular imagination, with coyote fur cap, toothless grin and bloody mitt, may find his way of life changed for good after the US election.

Animal rights protesters have succeeded in placing anti-field sports motions before the electorates of several states on November 5. Voters in Colorado, Idaho, Washington, Michigan, Oregon and Massachusetts will all have the chance to express their preferences on certain types of hunting at the same time as choosing between Bill Clinton and Robert Dole.

The motions represent a threat to a cherished way of life in the American West, where hundreds of thousands of people are preparing for the start of the season this coming weekend.

Jim Posewitz, 61, a Montana wildlife authority, yesterday admitted that field sports fans in the US need to arm themselves, politically speaking, against the "antis".

"These votes will be a good wake-up call for us," said Mr Posewitz.

"Hunting in America has no regard for social status or wealth," said Mr Posewitz. "Wildlife belongs to everyone, regardless of land ownership."

The hunting vote concentrates on rural pursuits which hunters know can be hard to defend in front of city dwellers trapping, poisoning and bear-baiting. The proponents of the votes argue that these practices are cruel. Farmers reply that traps are often the only way of protecting livestock from attacks by cougar, lynx and coyote. They add that wild animals such as the beaver, while photogenic, can cause widespread natural damage unless numbers are checked.

Mr Posewitz says that going out to hunt for supper is still widespread in his home state of Montana. "Half the households around here have a hunter," he said. "In my family of four, 80 per cent of our meat is wild. I get two deer, one elk and one antelope a year, and that pretty much does us, apart from a few chickens we buy."

Belgians hold more protests

Brussels: Thousands protested again yesterday over official bungling in Belgium's child murder case as the Government began drafting reforms, including an end to the appointment of judges based on party allegiance (Charles Bremner writes).

In half a dozen towns, people stopped work in anger over "state indifference" to a paedophile ring said to have been led by Marc Dutroux.

The protests, which were small in comparison with Sunday's "White March" in Brussels, signal continuing anger over what the political establishment concedes is a failure of the country's institutions.

Leading article, page 19

Ortega defiant

Arnoldo Aleman of the Liberal Party Alliance claimed victory in Nicaragua's presidential election as early results showed him well ahead. But Sandinista rival Daniel Ortega refused to concede.

Mayor killed

Paris: Ali Boucetta, the Mayor of Algiers, was reported to have died in the Algerian capital, apparently hit by a stray bullet from a gun battle between Muslim guerrillas and security forces. (Reuters)

Nobel ban

Manila: José Ramos Horta, the East Timor Nobel Prize winner, will be barred from the Philippines during next month's summit of Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation leaders, a Manila official said.

Landsbergis win

Vilnius: Vytautas Landsbergis, the Lithuanian independence leader rejected in 1992, has made a comeback. His Homeland Union claimed 26 per cent, with a third of Sunday's votes counted. (Reuters)

Fugitive shot

Athens: Pavlos Keremidis, 37, one of Greece's most wanted criminals, died in a hail of gunfire when he tried to throw a grenade at police who cornered him in a hospital emergency room here. (AP)

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War fears grow as Rwandan troops attack Hutu camps

FROM SAM KILEY IN KIGALI

HUNDREDS of thousands of Hutu refugees yesterday fled their camps in Zaire after attacks by Rwanda's army and Zairean Tutsi warriors.

The Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Army and their tribal allies in Zaire also fought with Zairean soldiers in battles that threaten to plunge the region into full-scale war.

Western diplomatic and intelligence sources confirmed yesterday that Rwandan troops had crossed into Zaire north of Goma and south of Bukavu at the weekend and attacked Rwandan Hutu who have lived in eastern Zaire since 1994.

At least 220,000 Hutus from camps on the Rusizi River plain near Uvira have formed a vast flood of human misery and yesterday afternoon were marching towards the Zairean lakeside town of Bukavu.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was desperately trying to move 40 aid workers from their Uvira homes. The foreign staff had been trapped for several days by fighting between the Hutus — backed by the Zairean Army — and Tutsis. On Sunday refugees were forced on to the Uvira airstrip by their own leaders to

prevent an evacuation flight from landing. Yesterday diplomats hoped to arrange for the aid workers to drive the short distance from Uvira to the Burundi border.

The explosion of fighting and confusing tribal alliances has its roots in the 1994 genocide of a million Tutsis and Hutu moderates in Rwanda. In July 1994 more than a million Hutus fled advancing Tutsi rebels, who stopped the mass slaughter, and have since been living in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi. From camps funded with foreign aid they have continued to raid Rwanda, killing Tutsis.

Zaire's administration in Kivu province recently formed an alliance with the Hutu extremists and vowed to drive out of the country 400,000

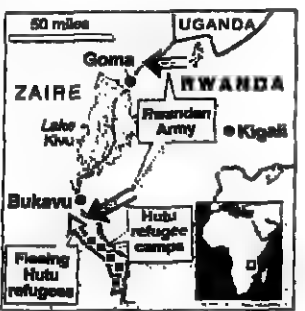
Zairean Tutsis who have lived there for 200 years. With the apparent backing of Rwanda, the Tutsis fought back at the weekend, sparking the mass Hutu exodus.

Yesterday officials from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were bracing themselves for an influx back into Rwanda. "If the camps around Goma [North of Lake Kivu] go the same way as those in Uvira, then we're going to have a nightmare on our hands," said one senior UNHCR official.

Meanwhile, Western ambassadors in Kigali, Rwanda's capital, were anxious to persuade the Government to pull its commands out of the area to prevent an escalation into war with Zaire.

However, Rwanda's military spokesman denied any Rwandan soldiers had taken part in attacks on Hutu camps or the Zairean Army.

However, aid sources said at least 60 Hutus had been killed and several vehicles destroyed by Rwandan commands in camps close to Goma. Intelligence sources said 1,700 Rwandan commands were standing by to help their tribal allies in Zaire, close to Bukavu.



Japanese coalition prospects brighten

FROM ROBERT WHYMANT IN TOKYO

BUOYED by Sunday's election result, Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday invited two minority partners in the outgoing coalition to join his dominant Liberal Democrats in forming a new Government, as potential defectors from the opposition were poised to join the winning side.

Horse-trading began in earnest just hours after the Prime Minister's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) emerged as the biggest winner, boosting its strength from 211 to 239 seats but falling short of a majority in the 500-seat lower house.

Mr Hashimoto met the leaders of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and the Sakigake Party to ask them to stay in the two-year-old coalition, declaring that voters had "shown support" for this arrangement.

However, Takako Doi, leader of the SDP (long known as the Socialist Party of Japan) had earlier said her party would not renew its alliance with the conservatives. The partnership had destroyed its credibility, with Social Democrats winning only 15 seats against 30 in the last parliament. The Sakigake, an LDP splinter group,



Ryutaro Hashimoto arrives yesterday at LDP headquarters where a poster proclaims his openness to change

did even worse, reduced from nine to two seats.

While Mr Hashimoto told journalists he would not rule out drawing on the support of other groups, it emerged that his aides had discreetly sounded out ten potential defectors from the main opposition Shinshinto Party. Later one of the Prime Min-

ister's colleagues predicted that more than a dozen members of Shinshinto would return to their old home in the LDP.

The Shinshinto, an uneasy mix including LDP renegades like its leader, Ichiro Ozawa, and politicians linked to the lay Buddhist cult Soka Gakkai, fared

poorly, falling from 160 to 156 seats. Pressure on Mr Ozawa to step down may intensify, all the more likely if Mr Hashimoto — Mr Ozawa's arch-rival — wins over disgruntled members as partners in his Government. Analysts say it is only a matter of time before the fragmentation of Shinshinto.

Mr Hashimoto, 59, may also lure the Democratic Party, formed a month ago, into an alliance if the terms are right. At a press conference Mr Hashimoto said he would honour his campaign pledge of whitening Japan's bloated bureaucracy.

Leading article, page 19

Mafia 'Beast' on trial for murder

FROM FRANCESCO BONGARRA IN CALTANISSETTA AND RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

A FORMER Mafia "boss of bosses", once nicknamed "The Beast" for his record of sadistic cruelty, went on trial in Sicily yesterday for the murder of Paolo Borsellino, the anti-Mafia judge blown up with five bodyguards in July 1992.

Salvatore "Totò" Riina, who has been in custody since January 1993, was charged with 17 other *mafiosi*. He sat alone in one of the cages used for Mafia trials in the purpose-built, high-security Caltanissetta courtroom, wearing a dark grey suit.

Riina, who has already received nine life sentences, spoke briefly to his defence lawyer but made no attempt to communicate with the other defendants in nearby cages. The opening of the trial was attended by relatives of the policemen killed with Judge Borsellino who, at the time of his death in 1992, had just taken over as chief anti-Mafia prosecutor from

Judge Giovanni Falcone, also murdered by the Mafia.

The two killings deeply shocked the nation, and Riina, betrayed by his own driver, was caught in a massive crackdown. Italians discovered that the legendary *capo dei capi*, who had evaded capture for 20 years, was a squat man in his sixties with the build and hands of a peasant from the Corleone hills.

Five of the accused *mafiosi* were charged in absentia, including Pietro Aglieri, still on the run, who is suspected of pressing the remote control button to detonate the car bomb.

The trial comes after disclosures by a Mafia *pentito* or "supergrass", Vincenzo Scarantino, who admitted placing explosives in Judge Borsellino's car. He named Riina as the mastermind.

It coincides with growing doubts over

the value of evidence from the 1,200 Italian Mafia *pentiti*, including Giovanni Brusca, Riina's successor as *capo dei capi*. Brusca — like Riina from the Corleone clan — was arrested in May after six years on the run. During the summer, with the power of the Mafia crumbling, it emerged that he had turned state witness.

Yesterday magistrates said Brusca's evidence was "dubious". He had accused Mafia members of crimes they could not have committed and, in some cases, his evidence had contradicted testimony of his younger brother, Enzo.

Giulio Andreotti, the former Prime Minister whose trial for alleged Mafia links is largely based on *pentiti* evidence, said the growing doubt cast on Brusca's reliability showed he and other "supergrasses" could not be trusted.



Meiring: happy to help the truth commission

Police insist de Klerk knew of apartheid-era atrocities

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

FIVE former South African security policemen suggested yesterday that F.W. de Klerk, the former President, had lied when he claimed recently that apartheid atrocities had never been authorised by his Government.

In an opening statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, read by their lawyer, the five said they "seriously doubted" the National Party leader's claims before the commission that he had been unaware of government-authorised murder, tor-

ture and assaults. They went on to call on the previous Government to admit authorising unlawful actions.

In a statement coloured by Afrikaans poetry and quotes from speeches, the policemen denied they were criminals and said the killing of more than 40 people was to defend the Nationalist Government.

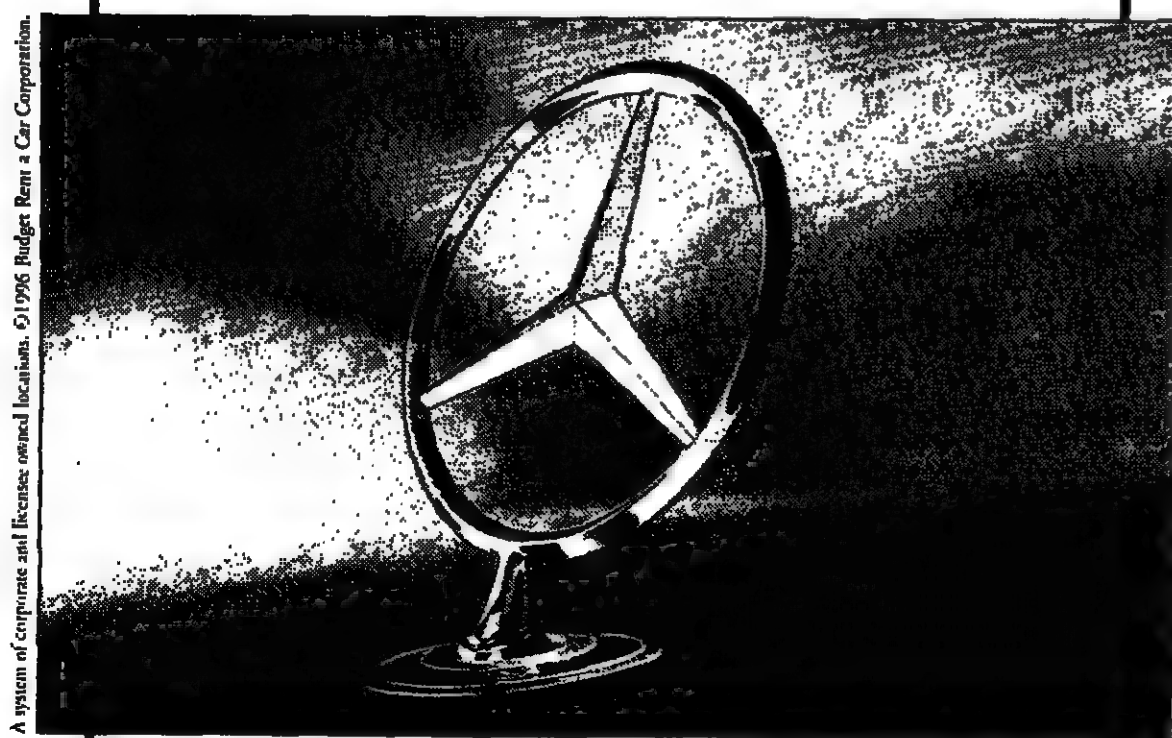
The case is regarded as the most significant so far heard by the commission, set up to investigate abuses under apartheid, offer reparations to victims and grant amnesty to perpetrators.

The men, who include a brigadier and colonel, have

admitted involvement in a number of "dirty tricks" operations which they claim were carried out on behalf of the white minority regime in defence of apartheid. To win amnesty they must show their crimes were associated with political objectives.

In a separate development, a submission by the apartheid South African Defence Force was criticised as one-sided for failing to mention any unlawful acts that it had committed. George Meiring, who heads the post-apartheid National Defence Force, promised full co-operation with the commission.

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11.4%	\$17,500	179.88	198.03	240.27	379.79
	\$15,000	154.01	169.74	205.95	325.54
	\$10,000	102.67	113.16	137.30	217.03
12.4%	\$9,000	97.97	106.98	128.19	199.38
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1996

Deutsche Telekom float could reap £400m for Britons

By OLIVER AUGUST
BRITISH investors are set to make a profit of up to £400 million from the floatation of Deutsche Telekom, the German phone group. A price range of 25 to 30 marks was announced yesterday in Europe's biggest-ever public offering.

Deutsche Telekom's share price on the Frankfurt stock exchange rose to 35 marks, up from 30 marks, after the announcement. The UK will be offered up to 12 per cent of the shares, which represents a £1 billion stake.

The exact offering price of the shares will be set on November 17, with trading due to begin the next day. Roadshows to brief investors will start today. The offering is expected to be strongly oversubscribed, with small shareholders receiving a half-mark discount on the first 300 shares. Some 3.5 million Germans have already applied for their share quota.

Ron Sommer, the Deutsche chief executive, said: "The signals are clear. Institutional investors as well as retail investors are showing a strong willingness to buy. We are firmly convinced that this price range very closely corresponds to the market's expectations."

He declined to say if the greenhouse option, the issuing of an extra 75 million shares on top of the regular 500 million shares, will be exercised immediately. But analysts have said there is little doubt that the option will be used on the first day to satisfy demand.

Analysts have also moved their price predictions upwards following the strong interest on the grey market, with the final share price now expected to be at the top end of the bookbuilding range.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4073.1	(+20.0)
FTSE All share	3947.5	(+7.09)
Nikkei	21302.55	(+209.35)
Dow Jones	8115.47	(+81.24)
S&P Composite	712.46	(+1.54)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Long Bond	9 3/4%	(9 3/4%)
Yield	6.75%	(6 7/8%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month interbank	6%	(5 1/2%)
Life long gilt	10 1/2%	(10 1/2%)

STERLING

New York	1.5920	(1.5875)
London	1.5908	(1.5911)
DM	2.4433	(2.4550)
FF	1.2252	(1.2252)
SFR	2.0111	(2.0253)
Yen	179.31	(179.11)
£ index	88.0	(88.3)

US DOLLAR

London	1.2388	(1.2421)
DM	1.2648	(1.2704)
SFR	1.1272	(1.1258)
Yen	112.72	(112.58)
£ index	87.7	(87.8)

Tokyo close Yen 112.88

WORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Jan)	823.88	(823.80)
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COMMODITIES

London close	8381.86	(8380.25)
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* denotes midday trading price

Clarke and CBI unite to revive PFI

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday struck a deal with the Confederation of British Industry to invigorate the much criticised private finance initiative.

The initiative, which brings commercial cash into public infrastructure projects, is to have less red tape, more flexibility of investment and occasional reimbursement of bidding costs for companies tendering for big schemes.

The joint endeavour by the Treasury and the CBI on the initiative, which now covers deals worth £7 billion, is a response to a stream of concerns from industry over delays and complex processes dogging projects.

Kenneth Clarke told a conference on the PFI, which followed a critical report in the summer from the CBI: "The battle over the principles of PFI has been won, we are now tackling the practicalities." He said the new measures to smooth PFI execution, such as more standardised contracts as opposed to a deal-by-deal approach from government officials, were a response to attacks on the scheme. "We have listened. We have learned. We are taking action."

He told business leaders, public authority bosses and politicians: "The private finance initiative is a partnership between the public and private sectors. The public sector gets better-value services, the private sector gets new business opportunities. We are forging an alliance for progress between the Treasury and the CBI in the true spirit of that partnership."

Mr Clarke said the £7 billion worth of PFI deals now agreed was a testament to the success of the programme when at the same point last year the value of business stood at £1.5 billion.



Heads of the Canary Wharf companies went for an unusual lunchtime stroll to mark the final link in the construction of the £2.5 billion Jubilee Line extension tunnel. Michael Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corp, second from right, escorted them under the Thames from Canada Water to Canary Wharf. With Mr Pickard are, from the back, Michael Smith, David Alexander, David Vaughan, Sir Peter Middleton, Sir David Walker and Colette Bowe

Pearson shares leap ahead despite BSkyB bid denial

By PAUL DURMAN

SHARES in Pearson leapt by 33 1/2 p yesterday as the stock market had its first chance to react to reports that BSkyB was planning a takeover of the media conglomerate.

Pearson shares ended the day 5 p cent higher, at 730p, with more than 6.7 million shares changing hands. Pearson's interests include The Financial Times, Penguin Books and Thames Television.

Sam Chisholm, chief executive of BSkyB, has said that since the company only announced its new chairman and chief executive last week, many in the City believe Dennis Stevenson and Marjorie Scardino, the first woman to head a UK top 100 company, should be given a chance to get to grips with their new responsibilities.

FT-SE 100 soars after Wall St cheer

By MICHAEL CLARK, STOCK MARKET CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices in London enjoyed their third consecutive day of gains to close at another record. The FT-SE 100 index of leading shares finished just a whisker shy of its best-ever level to end the day 20.0 points up at 4,073.1, marking a 10.4 per cent rise on the year.

Yesterday's advance was fuelled by Wall Street, where the Dow Jones industrial average was celebrating Friday night's fresh record-breaking performance. The Dow recovered an early 14-point fall yesterday, supported by better than expected trading news from IBM, the world's biggest computer manufacturer, to climb through the 6,100 level.

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JOHN CHARCOL

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

SkyePharma agrees deal on new drug

By PAUL DURMAN

SKYEPHARMA, the fledgling drugs company headed by Ian Gowrie Smith, has agreed a deal that will secure rights to its most important product to date.

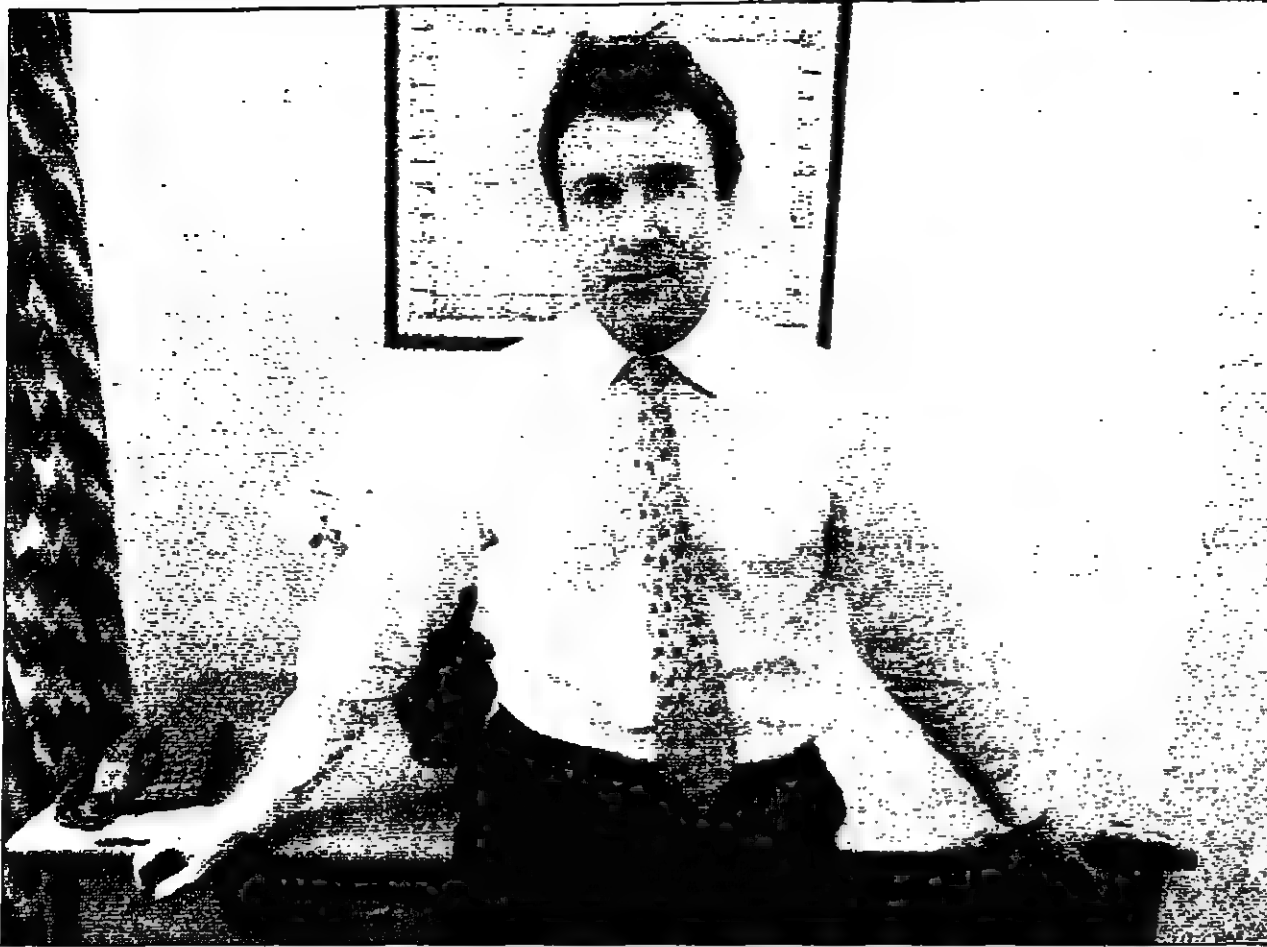
The deal, with two US drug companies, could produce substantial profits for SkyePharma from 1999 onwards. The British company will receive 41 per cent of the income from sales of a new treatment for angina and hypertension.

The new drug is a "bio-equivalent" version of Procardia XL, an off-patent Pfizer drug with sales approaching \$2 billion a year.

SkyePharma has signed a letter of intent to take over rights to the drug previously held by Gensia, a Californian company. Gensia, previously a high-flier, is trying to conserve its cash resources after the failure in late-stage trials of a cardiovascular drug.

SkyePharma expects to spend about \$10 million completing the development of the drug in collaboration with Boehringer Mannheim, a Maryland drugs company and Gensia's former partner. SkyePharma will pay Gensia a 10 per cent royalty on sales that it is hoped will run into hundreds of millions of dollars.

SkyePharma and Boehringer Mannheim intend to apply to register the drug with the US Food and Drug Administration next year. The US authorities are keen to encourage the switch to cheaper generic drugs. Shares in SkyePharma rose 6p to 83p.



Ian Gowrie Smith hopes that the treatment will yield substantial profits for SkyePharma from 1999 onwards

Economy ripe for tax rise, says forecaster

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STRENGTHENING consumer spending and a public deficit that is yet again overshooting forecasts by the Government mean that taxes ought to be raised rather than lowered, according to Oxford Economic Forecasting.

Oxford is predicting that consumer spending will rise by 3 per cent this year and by 3.75 per cent in 1997, fuelled by tax cuts, low interest rates, rising household wealth and windfalls from building society mergers. And consumer spending will largely be responsible for overall growth of 2.4 per cent this year, accelerating to 3.3 per cent in 1997.

This, says Oxford Economic Forecasting, makes it very difficult to justify tax cuts in next month's Budget although

it believes that the Chancellor will nevertheless offer modest reductions of between £2 billion and £3 billion, matched by spending cuts.

The Chancellor should instead be tightening fiscal policy in order to allow interest rates to remain low and so encourage investment. The economy is overly dependent on the consumer, Oxford Economic Forecasting adds.

Although investment appears to have risen at an annualised rate of 6.6 per cent in the first half of this year, the forecaster says that this figure needs to be interpreted cautiously. It notes that virtually all of the rise in investment recorded in the second quarter was due to one-off purchases of aircraft and that manufac-

turing investment fell by 4.7 per cent in the second quarter after a 4.2 per cent drop in the first.

Despite optimism on consumer spending, it emphasises that a replay of the 1980s boom is unlikely. It notes that the "feel-good" factor is still being undermined by job insecurity and that the ratio of debt to income is still close to its peak.

The latest European Commission Confidence Survey compiled by GfK shows, if anything, a slight weakening of consumer confidence in October from September. Its confidence index slid back to minus two, from minus one. However, this is still strongly up on a year ago when the index stood at minus eight.

David Walker, Associate Director of GfK, said that a more detailed breakdown shows that the greatest rise in confidence has been in the South with the reading moving from minus six a year ago to plus one in October.

In terms of age groups, the biggest improvement came in the 50 to 64 category, with a reading of minus 12 improving to minus four. Of the four income categories that GfK analysed, the biggest improvement in confidence came in those households with annual income of between £7,000 and £14,999. The index in this category rose from minus 11 a year ago to minus one in October.

Janet Bush, page 31

Prince set to pay £350m for Princess hotels

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

PRINCE al-Waleed bin Talal, the Saudi Arabian investor, is poised to buy the luxury Princess hotel chain from Lohrno for about £350 million.

"I will be the sole owner of the Princess hotels," the prince told *Al-Hayat*, a Saudi newspaper. He said he had been given the "sole negotiating right" to bid for the hotels. Other potential buyers appear to have dropped out as Dieter Bock, chief executive of Lohrno, travelled to Riyadh last week to push ahead with the negotiations, which are expected to be completed in the next ten days.

Prince Waleed is already a substantial investor in hotels. There are eight Princess hotels around the Caribbean, in Bermuda, Barbados and the Bahamas, as well as in Mexico, and Palm Springs and Scottsdale in the US.

The prince said he would sell the casinos operated by the Princess hotels and get his 50 per cent-owned Fairmont Hotel Management company to manage the chain.

Mr Bock originally proposed to float the Princess hotels and the UK-based Metropole chain on the London Stock Exchange earlier this year. However, the issue was abandoned in August when individual buyers emerged who were likely to offer more than the share offering would have raised.

Stakis, the UK casino and hotel operator, is interested in the five Metropole hotels, thought to be worth around £300 million.

The hotel sales would be a major step in Mr Bock's campaign to restructure Lohrno. The attractiveness of the hotels to potential buyers was helped by a 71 per cent rise in operating profits to \$66.7 million last year.

The Princess hotels will add to Prince Waleed's increasingly diverse portfolio of international investments, which include a stake in Canary Wharf and in Citicorp, the US banking group, as well as EuroDisney and Saks Fifth Avenue, the upmarket New York clothes store.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Japanese shares hit by election result

JAPANESE shares slid sharply, while government bonds surged to a record high yesterday after Sunday's general election, which left the pro-business Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) without a clear majority. The Nikkei 225 average fell 309.35 points, or 1.43 per cent, to close at 21,302.95 in subdued trading. The dollar rose briefly to a high of 112.89 yen, its strongest since January 1994, before easing slightly. In the bond market, the key December Japanese government bond (JGB) futures contract responded to the poor showing of the Shinshinto, or New Frontier Party, by surging to 123.70 yen, an all-time high for any benchmark, before ending with hefty gains.

Market operators are concerned that yet another unwieldy coalition government could lead to friction over policies and impede Japan's already sluggish economic recovery. Foreign exchange dealers agreed that the make-up of the coalition was likely to make the most difference in the long run.

Oil companies ahead

THREE American oil companies enjoyed a jump in third-quarter earnings, helped by strong production and higher oil and natural gas prices that more than offset weakness in refining operations. Texaco said net earnings jumped 50 per cent. Chevron Corp reported a 29 per cent increase excluding special items and Exxon Corp, the largest US oil company, said profits rose 4 per cent. The results were in line with or slightly better than expectations on Wall Street. But Mobil said net earnings fell to \$769 million from \$786 million, hurt by weak refining and marketing results.

Nabisco advances 17%

RJR Nabisco, the tobacco and food company, reported a 17 per cent rise in third-quarter profits and forecast continued strong results. The company earned \$216 million in the three months to September 30, compared with \$185 million in the third quarter of the previous year, when its results were reduced by hefty payments for early retirement of debt and preferred dividends. Revenues rose 7 per cent to \$4.3 billion, from \$4.1 billion. Worldwide tobacco sales rose 5 per cent to \$2.1 billion, while cigarette volume gained 4 per cent.

Aberdeen fights back

ABERDEEN Steak Houses, the restaurants chain severely affected by the BSE scare, said yesterday that there had been a steady recovery in demand for beef products. The company incurred losses of £722,000 before tax in the half-year June 30, against profits of £242,000 previously, but said it expected to earn a profit for the year as a whole. Second-half results will be assisted by a contribution from two new restaurants near Victoria station, central London. Refurbishment of a third London branch at Regent Street will be completed for Christmas. The loss per share was 4.6p (0.6p earnings).

Goodyear increases

GOODYEAR, the US tyre and rubber producer, announced third-quarter net income of \$170.2 million, an increase of 8.1 per cent from \$157.5 million in the third quarter of the previous year. However, sales fell to \$3.27 billion from \$3.31 billion. The company said that revenues were affected by lower sales of original equipment tyres in North America, competitive pricing pressures and a strengthening of the dollar. For the nine months, net income increased 9.7 per cent to \$509.9 million from \$464.6 million.

Optimism on US jobs

NEARLY half the large and mid-sized companies in the United States plan to create jobs over the next 12 months, the American Management Association reported yesterday. The AMA said that a survey of 1,441 companies showed that in the 12 months to June, 68 per cent added new jobs to their payrolls, compared with 58 per cent in the previous period, suggesting the average workforce grew 6 per cent, up from 4.5 per cent. Over the next year, 46 per cent of the companies surveyed intend to add jobs.

Moulinex confirms cuts

MOULINEX, the French electrical appliance company, yesterday confirmed it planned to cut jobs by 22 per cent but would try to avoid layoffs by introducing flexible schedules and reorganising manufacturing activities. After a stormy meeting with staff representatives, Moulinex confirmed the broad outlines of a plan announced in June for 2,600 job cuts, including 2,100 in France, and the closure of two French plants. In June, the company reported a loss for 1995/96 of Fr702 million, its fourth consecutive annual loss.

US fibre network plan

FRONTIER CORPORATION, the American telecommunications company, plans to build a \$2 billion fibre-optic network across the United States in partnership with the private Qwest Communications. Frontier is to invest almost \$500 million in the project. Lucent Technologies will supply the cable for what Frontier says will be the largest single US fibre-optic network built as one project. The network will connect almost 100 cities and provide coast-to-coast connection when it is completed in 1998.

New Euro Disney post

PHILIPPE BOURGUIGNON, chairman since April 1993 of Euro Disney, the theme park and hotels group operator, is to take the new position of executive vice-president for Walt Disney Europe. In his expanded role, M Bourguignon will work with European heads of each of Disney's major operating units to boost Disney's businesses in Europe. Walt Disney Europe said. His primary responsibility will continue to be the Disneyland Paris resort, which posted a profit in 1995 after several years at the brink of bankruptcy.

Angry names claim Lloyd's has reneged

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LLOYD'S of London was yesterday accused of "reneging" on its final settlement after a number of names claimed to have received new demands for tens of thousands of pounds in payments.

Some who had been sent letters believed they had settled their bills and accused Lloyd's of miscalculating the sums owed. Others said they agreed to waive their legal rights and abide by the settlement as long as they were given a breakdown of how the sum had been reached. They claimed this had not been done.

Christopher Stockwell,

chairman of the Lloyd's Names Association Working Party, accused Lloyd's of "trying to pressure names". Mr Stockwell said: "Lloyd's has made a contract with those names. It is disgraceful that it is now trying to renege on it."

Lloyd's denied that it was reneging on contracts. A spokesman said that reminders had been sent to names who owed money. Philip Holden, head of the financial recovery department of Lloyd's, last month said that non-payers would be pursued relentlessly.

Crunch-time delayed in Penguin war on Puffin

A HIGH COURT hearing to decide whether to ban Asda, the supermarket group, from selling its own-brand Puffin biscuits will take place in February (Sarah Cunningham writes).

United Biscuits, which launched Puffins more than 60 years ago, is suing Asda for trademark infringement and "passing off", after the launch five weeks ago of the Puffin

biscuit. The court must decide whether the name and wrapper design adopted by Asda is so similar to Penguin's that it should be banned.

At a preliminary hearing yesterday, Mr Justice Chadwick agreed with both sides that there should be an "expedited hearing". In the context of such complex matters, this will mean sometime next February.

Recovery may not stop BA from taking flight

USAir prepares to go solo

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

USAIR, the airline that is 25 per cent owned by British Airways, almost doubled its earnings for the third quarter, continuing a recovery that began earlier this year.

Despite the improvement after years of losses, USAir is almost certain to sever its ties with BA if the British airline's proposed alliance with American Airways goes ahead. USAir has already filed a US court action demanding that BA sell its stake in the company and allow USAir to compete independently.

USAir reported a \$108 million profit for the quarter, but the final figure was reduced after \$41.1 million was set aside

to cover profit-sharing obligations. Stephen Wolf, chairman, said the airline industry benefited from good economic conditions, and that USAir's load factor — the percentage of each aircraft filled with passengers — had risen slightly to around 70 per cent.

However, USAir continues to have the highest cost base of any US airline, and its failure to reduce the high wages of its staff is causing shareholders to worry. Warren Buffett, the stock market investor, is trying to sell his 10 per cent stake, which is now worth substantially less than the \$358 million he paid for it. But USAir's stronger financial performance means that it is able to pay Mr Buffett for the quarter, but the final figure was reduced after \$41.1 million was set aside

to cover profit-sharing obligations. USAir's ability to pay the back dividend may make it easier for Mr Buffett to find a buyer for his stake in the next few months.

USAir also expects British Airways to sell its stake once it completes its merger with American. The deal depends on US and UK government agreement on an "open skies" policy, which would give the carriers greater access to each other's airports.

A link with American would give BA stronger US presence than partnership with USAir. "We can't be part of that alliance," said Rick Weintraub, a USAir spokesman. "We don't have the anti-trust immunity to do so, so we must be allowed to compete on our own."

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

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□ Deutsche Telekom's easy lesson □ Will the Chancellor do his cut-price duty? □ Out of Africa with Algy Cluff

Dialling an instant profit

THE Germans may be rather better at making cars or kitchens, but by jingo, we can give them a few lessons in flogging off the family silver. The Deutsche Telekom float is heavily modelled on the huge British privatisations of the past decade, one of the first of which was our own dear BT in 1984.

The parallels with BT are even stronger, because DT is being sold into a similar maelstrom of uncertainty. BT shares have since 1993 because of a harsh regulatory regime designed to allow competitors to take a larger share of the market. Germany may shortly also have to open up its wholesale phone market to competition.

The risk-averse Germans, with bitter memories of the war and before, have never been keen on equities. Smaller investors go for bonds, certain the Bundesbank will safeguard their value by keeping inflation low and the mark high. Real money goes into property. There are several reasons why this should change. Like France, Germany suffers from having a mass of unmodernised middle-ranking companies, the so-called *Mittelstand*, generally family-controlled and preferring to stay that way and shunning equity capital. Modernisation will require outside investors to come

in. Second, chronic pensions underfunding will require a higher-risk, higher-return approach to investment for old age in future, which means equities.

The British approach to privatisation is to undervalue the shares from the outset and add a few bells and whistles in the form of huge dividends to persuade the private punter, who gets priority anyway. This deprives the institutions and makes them chase the shares in the after-market, so ensuring a healthy premium in first trading. DT's advisers have not so much taken a leaf out of this book, they have borrowed the whole library. The shares, at the top of their indicative price range, offer a gross yield approaching 6 per cent, and there are additional discounts to private investors. The price should rise by as much as 30 per cent on the first day of dealing.

The company will make up 5 per cent of the German share index. "Anyone found by their investors to have missed it will be nailed to the wall," said one Frankfurt fund manager. This is the classic self-fulfilling proph-

ecy, and DT shares are the closest thing yet to a certain profit, an even better bet short term than those earlier British privatisations.

But this will tempt some private investors to sell and bank the cost of next year's holiday early. The price may not hold; it all depends on the legal moves by competitors in Brussels and how well they can be resisted. For investors outside Germany, the value of their investment can only be protected if the German authorities can be persuaded to drag their feet and keep DT in the dark ages. Hardly *vorsprung durch technik*, is it?

Will liquid assets help canny Ken?

IT is hard to imagine any politician could be so cynical as to cut taxes deliberately so close to an election in an attempt to sway the opinions of the electorate, and even harder to believe the electorate would fall for it. But it is being whispered that Kenneth Clarke might be contemplating so monstrous an



action in next month's Budget. Nothing significant, not income tax cuts, of course — they are already in the bag. A penny off to 23p in the pound, appears to be the general reckoning, and it could hardly be much less than that, could it? No, the tax cuts being whispered are off the price of liquor, what used to be called the working man's pint and must in these times also take in the odd glass of Chardonnay for his boss. Some in the drinks industry believe Mr Clarke might be tempted to cut a couple of pence off each, in the hope that the resulting tide of public euphoria might be enough to sweep him back to Number 11.

The City doesn't believe this, and a weekend study by UBS,

the broker, forecast increases on beer and wine in line with inflation. If Mr Clarke does decide to cut duty, it will have had little to do with the ritual pre-Budget submissions from the drinks lobby. Yesterday was Trafalgar Day, and a scattering of pubs across the country with suitably patriotic names were offering beer at prices available in France, where duty is 26p a pint less. As part of the same last-minute lobbying, the Brewers and Licensed Retailers Association is to see the Chancellor this week. The same arguments will be trotted out about the cost to jobs of the cross-Channel booze cruise and the inequities of being able to buy lousy French beer for less than good British ale.

No one in the drinks industry seriously believes the Chancellor will see the light and allow duty to fall to Continental levels overnight — the health lobby would never stand for it, for one thing. The industry every year merely hopes to limit the upward rise in duty and a standstill, as in 1995, generally counts as a victory. The decision to cut a penny off a pint, as an example,

would take about £100 million off tax revenues. If and when they come to buy your vote, at least you know now what it is worth.

Algy on the joys of Zaire

IF timing is all, then Algy Cluff's timing could not have been worse. Yesterday his Cluff Mining, for reasons that are not entirely clear, arranged a briefing for City fund managers and analysts about the joys of investing in Zaire. A couple of days previously, this huge state in western Africa, rich in terms of mineral wealth and poor even by African standards, had seen the outbreak of civil war.

Visiting the UK and talking to the City was the Prime Minister, Kengo wa Dondo. He is not to be confused with President Mobutu, currently in Switzerland, convenient for him should he ever wish to count those numbered accounts, even if the state of his health is uncertain.

In a recent study on parts of the world where inward investment is endangered by corrup-

tion or high credit risk, Zaire failed even to make the list. There is not enough business there. The country is the original kleptocracy, where corruption, embezzlement and theft are the normal methods for the exchange of goods. Outside firms forced to work there tell tales of illegal dealing on the currency markets to ensure their workforce can be paid at all, such is the chaos in the banking system. And don't even try to use the telephones.

Free elections are promised next year, which is when free elections take place in Zaire — always next year. Someone, somehow, is going to find a way of liberating the enormous wealth of countries like Zaire without too much of it sticking to the local *apparatchiks*. But one feels it may not be Algy Cluff.

Wages of fear

PROPOSALS to make "ageism" an offence would seem to miss the point. There is little use in creating yet another segment of aggrieved litigants to clog up industrial tribunals. The usual reason older employees are discriminated against or replaced with their younger equivalents is simple. Having mortgages, children and other encumbrances, they are more likely to demand a living wage.



Rufus Bond Gunning, left, and Richard Williams, finance director, have pushed the button for a £22 million placing

Provend to make market debut

By FRASER NELSON

PROVEND, one of Britain's largest vending machine companies, is coming to the Stock Exchange in a placing that is expected to value the firm at £22 million.

Rufus Bond Gunning, the managing director, said that the company hopes to raise £10 million from the flotation in order to reduce debt and fuel its acquisition power. He added that Provend had been approached by smaller companies and was already in the process of making a medium-sized acquisition.

Formed from a buyout from Sketchley in 1991, Provend now runs 15,000 vending machines across the country, 7,000 of which are also under further contracts for cleaning and filling. It also runs a range of

"automated staff restaurants", where complete meals are purchased through the machines in a staff canteen that can stay open for 24 hours.

Provend currently owes £4.02 million through bank borrowings and loan stock. The company aims to reduce gearing to 10 per cent after the flotation.

Mr Bond Gunning was recruited by Sketchley to restructure its machine vending arm, which lost £6.8 million in 1990. After the buyout, backed by Canderover and ECI, Provend returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of £1.21 million in the year to June 30, on sales of £41.3 million.

While his post-flotation shareholding has not been settled, Mr Bond Gunning is expected to become a paper millionaire.

Greycoat attacks 'crazy' sale plan

By PAUL DURMAN

GREYCOAT, the property company under attack from one of its largest shareholders, said yesterday that it was "crazy" to suggest selling off its £500 million portfolio of central London properties.

Funds managed by Brian Myerson's Active Value Advisors are pressing Greycoat to sell its portfolio of investments — effectively winding up the company. Greycoat was forced yesterday to call an extraordinary meeting, which is likely to be held late next month, to allow shareholders to debate this proposal.

Peter Thornton, Greycoat's managing director, said the threat from Active Value was "an unwelcome and costly distraction". He added: "It's crazy to start talking about what will effectively be a fire sale of our properties in a rising market."

Active Value, which controls 10.6 per cent of Greycoat, is unhappy that the property company's shares trade at a discount of more than 20 per cent to their net asset value. Mr Myerson, a Greycoat director until March, is unconvinced by development plans and wants Greycoat to take advantage of the improving property market to unlock value for shareholders.

Mr Thornton said that Mr Myerson, unlike other shareholders, was only interested in short-term performance. "He's not a property guy... he's making a criticism about something that he does not understand." He also suggested that one reason for the large share price discount was that Active Value was regarded as a keen seller.

Tempos, page 30

Happy £90m return for Birthdays group

By FRASER NELSON

RON WOOD, a former audit clerk who founded the Birthdays greeting card business, has sold his company to a buy-in team backed by Schroders and Prudential for £90 million.

Mr Wood, who set up Ron Wood Greeting Cards Holdings in 1969, gained £45 million from selling the bulk of his majority stake, and has agreed to invest £15 million of the proceeds for a 30 per cent share in the new company.

Bryan Robson, the former Manchester United player, was one of the original shareholders in the company, and is understood to have sold his 2

per cent stake. It would have been worth £1.8 million.

Schroders Ventures and Prudential Venture Managers have invested £15 million each in the buyout, and will share a 55 per cent share in the new company. It will be renamed Birthdays, after the brand name of the cards.

The company, based in Bury, Manchester, owns 330 shops and runs 50 franchise outlets. Over the last 25 years, it has become the market leader in greeting cards, giftwraps and tags. It also houses a wholesale division, which supplies confectioners, tobacconists and newsgazettes. In the year to end-June 1996,

the company's operating profits were £11 million on turnover of £99.3 million.

The buyout team is led by John Lovering, who resigned as chief operating officer of Tarmac last year to pursue a £400 million buyout bid for the company's housebuilding division. The offer, also backed by Schroders and Prudential, was eventually beaten by Wimpey in a straight asset swap. Since then, Mr Lovering, who was also a former finance director of Sears, has been living in The Netherlands and looking to join another management buyout. He was recommended by Schroders for the job, and

will now return to Britain to work full time as Birthdays' executive chairman.

Mr Wood will remain as a consultant to the company, but has resigned from the board. The remainder of its management structure will remain intact, and a commercial director will be recruited.

Mr Lovering said yesterday that he hopes to open up to 150 more outlets in the UK. He believed that Mr Robson, now manager of Middlesbrough, became involved with the company after getting to know Mr Wood in Manchester.

Schroders hopes to float the company on the stock market in less than three years.

BP signs \$2.5bn deal in China

BP Chemicals has signed a \$2.5 billion joint venture agreement with Shanghai Petrochemical Co to produce ethylene in China.

The agreement represents the largest commitment made by BP in China and will be formed on an equity basis, with BP providing cash and technology and SPC contributing existing chemical plants.

John Browne, chief executive of BP, said yesterday: "This venture will bring enduring benefits to China as well as deepening BP's position as a significant investor in one of the world's most dynamic economies." The project will have capacity to produce 650,000 tonnes of ethylene a year.

SPC is China's largest single petrochemical enterprise and the country's ninth largest industrial concern. It is also China's largest stock available for foreign investment, with a market capitalisation of about \$2 billion.

News Corp condemns raid

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE News Corporation yesterday moved to criticise the Israeli income tax authorities after reports at the weekend that the offices of News Datacom Research Ltd, a subsidiary company of News Datacom Ltd, had been raided.

News Corp, the owner of both companies and the parent company of *The Times*, said it had been assured as recently as three weeks ago by

the Israeli authorities that News Datacom Research Ltd was not under investigation. NDRL, a research and development subsidiary, reported its tax in the same manner as hundreds of other research and development subsidiaries of international companies in Israel, said News Corp.

"Given our full co-operation with the authorities, it is hard to understand the reason for

the public and extreme action undertaken on October 20, 1996," said the statement. Neither NDRL nor its parent has produced cumulative operating profits prior to its financial year ending on June 30 so there was no question of tax evasion.

News Corp believes the investigation is being driven by an ex-employee and says it has "nothing to hide".

Upton's first profit since 1989

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

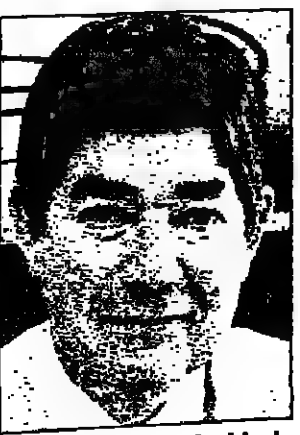
UPTON & SOUTHERN, the Teesside department stores group, yesterday reported its first profit since 1989.

The company, which put the Reject Shop into receivership last year, made a pre-tax profit of £307,000 on sales of £8.95 million, in the year to July 27. Last year, it made a loss of £9.59 million on sales of £30.4 million. No dividend is to be paid on the ordinary shares.

Uptons, whose chairman is Ronald Trenter, bought the

Reject Shop for £2.3 million in 1994 and put it into receivership 15 months later, after ringfencing its department stores.

The group's E Upton & Sons division, which operates three department stores and three smaller stores in the North East of England, had a like-for-like sales increase of 5.6 per cent during the year. In the first 11 weeks of the current year, like-for-like sales are 13 per cent ahead on the same time last year.



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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Green crases Black memory

DAVID KRANTZ, the owner of Racing Green, which yesterday announced it was being bought by Burton Group for £19 million, already had October 21 etched on his memory. On that day nine years ago, Blazer, the chain of menswear stores he had founded, was due to be floated. The intervention of Black Monday on October 19 put a stop to all that and sent nine months of planning down the drain.

Yesterday will be memorable for a much better reason — he gets £15 million from the sale of Racing Green, the home shopping company he set up after eventually selling Blazer for £5.4 million. He says he has now had enough of clothes retailing and sees himself setting up in restaurants or publishing. Will he make fortune number three?

Waist not

CUTTING a fine figure around town is Brian Taylor, ebullient chief executive of Wardle Stores, the parachutes and inflatable boats company. He has taken a leaf out of Nigel Lawson's book and lost five stone on a crash diet. He looks much happier than the former Chancellor. Now dipping the scales at around 13½ stone, he is confident he will not pile on the pounds again, despite his taste for the finer things in life. That may be just as well, for having lost almost 12 inches around his waist he has thrown out an entire wardrobe of clothes.



"Harvey Nichols? You can't miss it — take the A1 to Pontefract then the M62 for Leeds"

Sporting chance

AN insurance policy was launched yesterday for executives who pay huge membership fees to exclusive sports and health clubs. The policy will pay subscription fees if you are injured and unable to use the facilities, or if you are unemployed. The policy is the idea of Lowndes Lamher, the insurance broker, after one of his development managers, Scott Ingham, suffered a back injury that put him out of action for a couple of months.

A CABBIE waiting outside the newly opened OXO Tower restaurant was asked who he was waiting for. The reply may come as a surprise for the chairman of English Heritage: "Dunno exactly mate, some woman called Jocelyn Stevens."

Tall order

BUSINESS folk in Harrogate this week for the annual Institute of Personnel and Development annual conference are in for a shock — a one-man show called Tall, Dark, Handsome and No 1 that aims to provoke executives into thinking about the environmental, social and ethical challenges of business.

EMPLOYERS would be forgiven for a sudden jump in blood pressure over a new report on stress at work. Announcing the study, the Institute of Personnel and Development said that stress-related illness cost UK employers £7.9 billion. The figure should have been £7 billion to £8 billion.



Early warning: the Chancellor had a preview of the CBI's latest Industrial Trends survey before his weekend Budget strategy session

Clarke's dilemma: cut tax for votes or appease industry?

Philip Bassett explains why the Chancellor faces a difficult Budget decision next month

Business leaders at the Confederation of British Industry will today slot into place a key piece of Kenneth Clarke's pre-Budget jigsaw when for the final time before the Chancellor takes out his red box, they reveal the state of British business. CBI leaders are expected, in their last quarterly Industrial Trends survey before the Budget, to be cautiously optimistic about the state of industry and the economy. The survey is expected to show confidence with output and orders rising.

The CBI's survey will be broadly in line with the improving mood of similar studies over the past few days and weeks from Britain's chambers of commerce, construction companies and others — that industry, especially manufacturing, is getting better, but still has considerable weaknesses, and so wants a Budget that will promote business and economic stability.

When Mr Clarke met his Treasury ministers and senior officials at Dorneywood, his official residence, over the weekend, to discuss strategy for the Budget next month, he had advance notice of today's CBI findings. But calls by business for stability based on survey evidence such as today's CBI report present the Chancellor with a dilemma: the Budget that industry wants is a good distance away from the Budget Conservative MPs want. The latter may see the Budget as the key opportunity for the Government to improve its prospects before the general election. Over a longer run, economic indicators are good, supporting in particular the current high street mini-boom, and allowing Mr Clarke to claim at the recent Conservative party conference that the economy is "in its best condition ever in our lifetime", adding that people can now "feel the benefits of Tory economic policy as never before."

Yet the Government's own, and most recent, economic figures are mixed. Unemployment fell last week, by 36,500 — a much larger total than the City had expected — but average earnings in effect rose a quarter of a point. Headline inflation is unchanged, but the Government's target measure of underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, is shifting up. Both sets of figures prompted calls for higher interest rates, offset by an unexpected setback in manufacturing, where output in August fell at the fastest rate for more than three years.

The CBI's survey looks generally much more guarded than those from other business bodies, such as the Institute of Directors, British Chambers of Commerce, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Building Employers' Confederation.

Taken together, the surveys show relative economic buoyancy, though couched with caution, and a considerable hope, that things will improve further. CBI leaders, for instance, will make it clear today that they believe that growth in the economy is there, is steady and is sustainable — providing the Government takes no risks with it in the Budget. Chambers of Commerce also emphasise the steadiness of growth, and suggest too that the manufacturing sector in particular is returning to levels of confidence not seen for 18 months or more. Company directors, as measured by the IOD's much-improved survey, see the outlook as positive, with recovery spreading, but are concerned that weaknesses in the UK's overseas markets are beginning to have an adverse impact on UK exporters. Sectorally, the engineering industry is showing improvement, though EEF leaders believe that while growth will continue, it will be at a slower pace. And in construction, as charted by the BECs study, the pick-up in the housing market is finally feeding through to building firms after what has been for that industry a double-dip recession so far in the 1990s.

Such trends are leading to a considerable commonality of purpose across industry about what the Chancellor

should then do in the Budget, which CBI leaders are likely to reflect this morning when they publish in full the detailed results of their own survey: a steady Budget for growth, with steps to improve the public finances — and little, if any at all, room for tax cuts.

Adair Turner, Director-General of the CBI, said: "Our key messages are clear. For business, the priorities are stability, investment and continued progress in reducing public borrowing." Arguing that the state of the public finances calls for "caution", he says: "The shortfall of corporation tax and VAT receipts is a major factor. If this shortfall proves permanent, the scope for planned tax cuts must reduce accordingly."

Dr Ian Peters, deputy Director-General of the Chambers of Commerce Association, agrees. "The Chancellor and the Bank of England must leave interest rates and taxes alone. Further reductions could cause undue stimulus to the economy, while any increase could threaten the delicate balance of this recovery and hurt export markets," he said. So given where industry is within the economy, what does industry want from the Chancellor? Caution is the watchword.

In line with the cautious Budget business is looking for, Treasury and Bank of England officials want the Chancellor to opt for prudence — in part because of the poor state of the public finances, but also because, like business, they do not believe that the

economy, already moving up, needs any further stimulation. Tax cuts will be the key issue. Privately, business recognises that they are politically inevitable, though cuts in taxes — and especially any reductions in personal taxation — virtually define the economic imprudence business does not want to see. For business, how few cuts in taxes the Chancellor can get away with is likely to be the measure of how successful the Budget will be.

Business leaders are pleased with the note the Chancellor himself has been striking about what kind of Budget he is likely to produce, particularly on tax cuts. They liked what they heard from Mr Clarke at the Tory Party conference — that the key to any tax cuts is to control public spending and to reduce public borrowing. "We will cut taxes only when we can afford to, and only when it is good for the economy," they have not quite said so, but business leaders have all but declared that the state of the public finances are such that the Chancellor has, in fact, no room at all for tax cuts. To disguise the point, and to give the impression at least that they are cutting with the grain, most industry leaders propose at least some cuts in taxes — but they are virtually uniform in suggesting cuts in business taxation, and not just for self-interest, but because they are concerned that any cuts in personal taxes will damage the tax take still further and could add to inflationary pressures by an over-stimulation of demand.

But they privately recognise that what they claim to be the proposals that Britain needs economically are unlikely to be politically sufficient. In that, the judgment of business leaders may be shrewd: by sticking closely to economic requirements, industry leaders are clearly not tying themselves too obviously to the Conservative Party's political fortunes.

If Labour is voted in at the general election, on the Budget at least, business will have clean hands, having argued a case that manifestly is not enough for the Conservatives' re-election. So if the Chancellor does go beyond the strict prudence business wants to see from the Budget, business leaders may regret it — but they know that it might improve the Conservatives' re-election prospects, which they would welcome, or, at the very least, it might allow business to reap some benefit if the political wind changes.



JANET BUSH

Straws in the electoral wind

The apparent slump in Labour's opinion poll lead reported in the weekend press has jolted conventional wisdom. Although the Prime Minister's shirt-sleeved, Honest John appeal to the electorate went down well in Bournemouth, few guessed that it would go very far in counteracting the latest dollop of sleaze and the threat from the Referendum Party.

And yet the latest NOP survey showed Labour's lead down from 23 points a fortnight ago to 14 points, the lowest reported by this particular survey of voter intentions for three years. The 23-point lead came in the NOP poll on October 3, just after Tony Blair's widely praised speech in Blackpool and before a Conservative conference that turned out to be surprisingly trouble-free. Taking out this poll, all other recent adjusted polls have given Labour a lead of between 14 points and 19 points.

Still, there does appear to have been a small, but genuine, improvement in the Government's poll position. The NOP reading may be the first sign that an improving economy is finally translating into greater popularity. If so, Kenneth Clarke stands vindicated. He has persistently argued that a return of consumer confidence will prove the Government's best electoral friend. And he has counselled, never more strongly than in Bournemouth, against cosmetic tax cuts.

The business of interpreting opinion polls is hazardous but research suggests that the Chancellor is pursuing the best strategy. Only today, Simon Price of Oxford Economic Forecasting, writes that the public's perception of a party's economic competence matters greatly in determining popularity but also that there is no mileage for "extremely unpopular" governments in throwing away what vestiges of economic competence they have purely to win an election. "The damage is too large to undo," he says. "So they may as well act responsibly."

The Government has long experienced a disheartening disjunction between the performance of the economy and its standing in opinion

polls but there has been good reason for this. According to David Sanders, professor of government at Essex University, the Conservative reputation for economic competence, which had never faltered since 1979, was shattered by the ERM crisis of 1992.

The overnight destruction of the main plank of the Government's economic policy only compounded the distrust already engendered by ministerial claims of recovery long before it could be felt, and the U-turn on tax. It has since been extraordinarily difficult for the Government to recover its reputation as economic manager but Mr Clarke's sensible and gimmick-free stewardship may now be starting to help.

Along with the ERM effect, another theory explaining the breakdown of the link between Conservatism and economic confidence, put forward by Mike Dicks of Lehman Brothers, is negative equity. The Government's standing ought to improve on both counts. The number of households blighted by negative equity has dropped below 500,000 for the first time since 1990, according to the Woolwich Building Society.

And the ERM effect may have faded finally from people's perceptions. Mr Dicks believes the effect of major political events, which seem to have caused permanent shifts in the political parties' standings, probably fades over time. So the hugely positive effect of Tony Blair's assumption of the Labour leadership may be waning but so, too, is the ERM negative for the Government.

None of the above should send punters running to their local betting shops to put money on a Conservative victory next spring. For one thing, if economic management is the issue it is difficult to find any water, blue or red, between Mr Clarke and Gordon Brown. For another, although the economy is important, it is not the only reason why people vote the way they do. A liking for Tony Blair's new society rhetoric, a dislike for sleaze, a simple desire for change all count in the electoral balance.

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE

Percentage balance of companies

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1990	-29	-22	-27	-47				
1991	-51	-17	-28	2				
1992	-24	8	-9	-23				
1993	11	31	11	4				
1994	27	13	11	16				
1995	17	13	-3	-11				
1996	-6	-3	8					

Source: CBI

BUSINESS LETTERS

Fresh perspective on fat-cat rewards

From Mr Denis Harvey-Kelly, Sir, It is time the fat cats of industry were put in proper perspective. Anyone who makes money for their shareholders should be properly rewarded.

It is the measurement that needs looking at more closely. The share price is a very poor yardstick. In any case share options create share dilution.

Might I suggest that an executive's incentive should not exceed any increase in the dividend to shareholders, and that any increase that reduces the cover of the dividend should not be counted. The only loophole left is the "jiggling" of the accounts. This is something that the auditors should be made accountable for.

No method is entirely satisfactory, but at least something on these lines ensures that no executive on an incentive can take out more from the company in which he works than his shareholders. Yours faithfully, DENIS HARVEY-KELLY, Corby House, Sherborne, Dorset.

The system leads to poor non-executive directors

From Mr Clive Halton

Sir, The recent commentary on seemingly excessive pay arrangements and termination settlements can, in my view, often be placed at the door of the appointment system for non-executive directors.

A worrying trend is the large number of executive directors who are being appointed as non-executive directors of large corporations. The reason that is often given is that current experience "in the kitchen" is of better value to a board than

independence and objectivity. The often-quoted disadvantages of such an appointment are those of self-interest and the setting of pay contracts by their own kind. I have, from my own professional experience, an equally important disadvantage.

Today's non-executive appointment demands at least three days per month of time in a large company, and this cannot only be comprised of the hours reading papers at a weekend. How can busy executive directors of leading firms devote such time and attention

when they should be acting full time in the interests of their own business and shareholders?

Today's business complexity and international demands do not permit a top executive these additional commitments. So we end up with too much conflict of interest, a lack of independence and objectivity and a confused time commitment. Yours faithfully, C. A. HALTON, Orchard House, Frenchay Hill, Bristol.

Why Tottenham shares sagged

From Mr John Godfrey

Sir, Tempus (October 11) seems surprised that Tottenham Hotspur's share price is depressed. Perhaps he doesn't realise that financial success relies upon more than avoiding relegation. TV revenues are dependent to a large degree on the success of the team; and the biggest windfalls come to those who do well in European competitions. These, though, are only open to teams that win trophies or achieve high league placings. At present, Tottenham looks unlikely to meet these criteria.

Much has been said about the chairman's reluctance to invest in the football team, but we should not be surprised by this. He has done very nicely by avoiding competition with the "top end" of the market — a strategy that has worked so well for his other vehicle — Amstrad. Yours faithfully, JOHN GODFREY, 29 Melsted Road, Boxmoor, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.

Scepticism over Gas computer

From David H. Walton

Sir, So British Gas have a record of the phone calls they receive, and this is carefully logged on their computer. Is this the famous computer they use to prepare their bills? Yours faithfully, DAVID H. WALTON, 10 St Guthac's Close, Crowland, Peterborough.

Bribery by officials treated as corruption

From Mr Paul Vevers

Sir, Jason Nisse's article under the headline "Bribe-seeking officials escape prosecution" (The Times, October 14) gives the impression that the Audit Commission regards attempts by government officials to pressurise people into paying bribes as maladministration rather than corruption.

This is not the case. He was quoting from a letter from Derek Purdy, an Audit Commission official, about the lack

of evidence in an individual case.

Our general position is clear: when officials exact bribes, that is corruption — whether bribes are actually paid or not. We condemn all corruption and auditors will act appropriately in pursuing it.

Yours faithfully, PAUL VEVERS, Director of Audit Support, The Audit Commission, 1 Vincent Square, London SW1.

THE TIMES

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Ageism fears abound at both ends of spectrum

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

OLDER workers and those at the start of their careers should be protected by legislation to outlaw age discrimination, according to a nationwide survey of employees.

In what is claimed to be the first comprehensive look into the views of workers as opposed to bosses, an overwhelming majority — more than 92 per cent — said it was ability rather than age which counted in the workplace. Nearly 80 per cent said that there should be laws to protect

workers from age prejudice, although 30 per cent were pessimistic that such laws would be effective. More than three quarters of those questioned said age limits should be banned from job advertisements.

The survey by Austin Knight, the recruitment and communication consultancy, and The Employers Forum on Age spoke to workers from employers including Allied Distillers, the Bank of England, Marks & Spencer, Nationwide Building Society and a selection of county councils.

Research by Austin Knight earlier this year into employment opportuni-

ties revealed a high proportion of workers claiming they had been the victims of age discrimination. The survey published today also finds substantial numbers of people claiming age prejudice at both ends of the age spectrum. More than half said they had been thought of as too young.

Generally, older workers were found to be more open to change and more willing to learn new skills than the perception held by some employers and colleagues. The study found that older people do not take more time off work than their younger counterparts, although those who

think they do are most likely to be young employees. Similarly it was indicated that managing older staff can be seen as problematic for younger staff.

Anne Riley, chief executive of Austin Knight, said the extent of age discrimination at work has been largely underestimated because workers are reluctant to complain. One in six employees who had experienced ageism had moved from that company, about two thirds took no action and about a sixth made an informal complaint. Ms Riley said: "It appears that there is a quiet-life

mentality present in many workers that has kept hidden the depth and extent of age discrimination."

Ruth Jarratt, development director of the Employers Forum on Age, said the study should make employers review their attitude to age. She said: "One of the most striking points that emerges from this survey is the strong belief that people should be recruited on merit alone, and yet it is obvious that the workplace abounds in misconceptions about both young and older people's abilities."

Pennington, page 29

Return to profit fails to shake doubts over IBM's recovery

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

IBM, the computer group, reported better than expected profits for the third quarter of this year after a hefty loss at the same time last year, but Wall Street remains cautious about the company's long-term recovery.

IBM turned in profits of \$1.3 billion, up from a \$500 million loss in the third quarter of 1995. When the purchase of Lotus Notes, the networking software company, is stripped out of last year's figure, IBM's results were flat. However, this still compares favourably with the 22 per cent fall in profits during the second quarter. Although revenues in the US, Asia and Latin America increased 8 per cent to \$18.1 billion, revenues from the troubled European operation did not rise.

"This was a very good quarter," said Louis Gerstner, chairman. Mr Gerstner has been working to turn the company around after huge losses two years ago threw a question mark over its future. He said one of the highlights had been sales of networking hardware and software, which has become a key part of IBM's recovery strategy.

IBM's results have become a major event on Wall Street. Twice this year they have caused major stock market moves. In April the company's chief financial officer, Richard Thoman, gave a pessimistic trading forecast which sent IBM shares tumbling and caused a collapse in the computer sector. This, in turn, triggered a decline across the whole market during the sum-

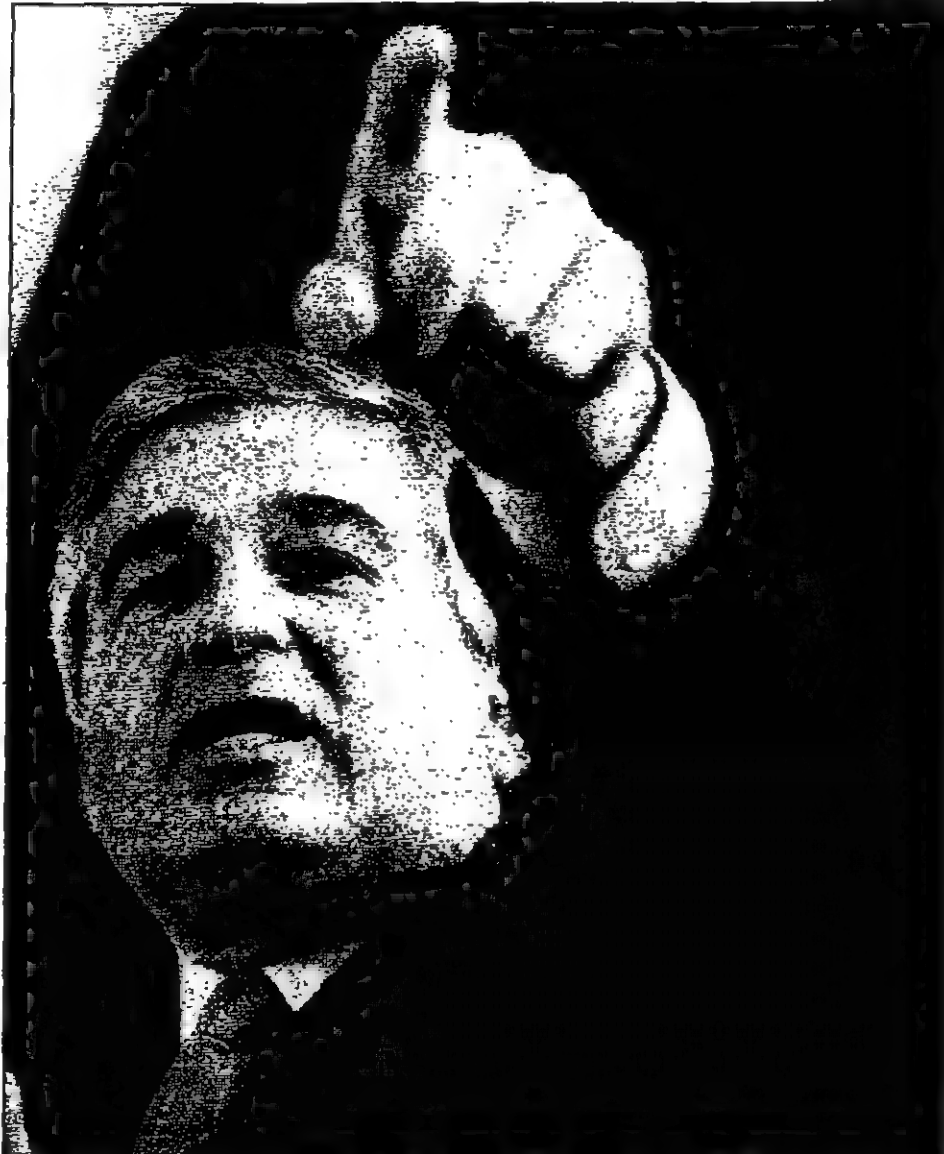
mer. In July, however, he gave an upbeat forecast which pushed up IBM shares dramatically and helped a stock market recovery.

Doubts persist over the solidity of IBM's recovery because its recent good performance has been based on heavy sales of a new generation of mainframe computers and large computer operating contracts.

However, many analysts doubt that mainframes will continue to sell well as businesses turn to the Internet and internal networking systems. Major customers, such as Ford, the car manufacturer, are ending their reliance on mainframes and are switching to more flexible systems. Meanwhile, IBM is only breaking even in its personal computer business.

The group's shares rose by nearly \$3 yesterday to \$132.5, its highest level for five years and more than three times the low of \$40 in 1992. Mr Gerstner has engineered the recovery by cutting costs, cutting the workforce by tens of thousands and introducing the new range of mainframe computers.

The group is in no immediate financial trouble because its cashflow, even after its large capital spending, is a healthy \$9 billion a year. Nevertheless, the shares remain extremely volatile because of investor concern that Mr Gerstner's strategy may not be enough to cope with rapid changes in the computer industry.



Louis Gerstner has cut costs and jobs and introduced the new mainframe computers

Benchmark index as aid for small businesses

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SMALL BUSINESSES were urged yesterday to sharpen their performance by comparing themselves with each other through a nationwide network set up by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Richard Page, Minister for Small Business, launched the UK Benchmarking Index designed for small companies as "a simple computer-based system that, through a series of questions, will allow a huge range of different types of small firm to compare performance in key areas like finance, management and operations, with other companies in their sector or region."

With more than 90 per cent of companies comprising 20 employees or fewer, Mr Page said: "These small operations need to be just as skilled at finance, marketing, innovation, production and management as big multinationals."

The DTI believes that with the use of the index small companies will be able to work more effectively with Business Links, the support scheme for business. The benchmarking scheme has been designed in conjunction with Business Links and the training and enterprise councils (Tecs).

Mr Page said: "Trade associations also have an important role to play. As well as being a strong national voice for their members they can work with them to improve the competitiveness of their sector. Benchmarking can provide a good starting point for such activities."

New telecom licences imminent

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FIRST licences for new companies in the international telecoms market are planned for the end of this year, the Department of Trade and Industry said yesterday.

The DTI issued a new draft form of the licence for companies before the final version is awarded to companies who want to offer international services over their own facilities. The Government published a consultation paper on liberalising the provision of international services over a company's own facilities in March. Forty-six companies have applied for the international facilities licences.

Ian Taylor, Science and Technology Minister, said: "Competition will reduce prices for UK consumers, encourage more inward investment and boost our position as Europe's leading telecoms hub."

Mr Taylor said the Government wanted a regulatory regime that cuts costs to industry but allows OfTel, the regulator, to clamp down on anti-competitive operations.

Hillsdown to buy in rest of Strong

By FRASER NELSON

HILLSDOWN HOLDINGS, the foods conglomerate, has agreed to spend £4.3 million on buying the shares that it does not already own of Strong & Fisher, the USM-quoted animal by-products producer.

The deal will end Strong & Fisher's 28 years as an independently quoted company. It values the shares at 21p, compared with Friday's closing price of 12½p, and the firm at £36 million. Hillsdown has controlled the company since 1990, when it gained 70 per cent of its shares in a rescue package. Before yesterday's offer to buy from minority

shareholders, Hillsdown had lifted its stake to 90.2 per cent. Strong & Fisher, which used to produce the offal-based cattle feed suspected of spreading "mad cow" disease, has seen mixed fortunes from the BSE crisis. The feed has been banned, but the leather division has enjoyed a drop in raw material prices and its rendering division has benefited from heavy cull orders.

A sharp drop in overseas demand pushed the leather division into a loss in August. The situation has recovered and its pre-tax profits for 1996 are expected to be slightly above last year's £3.31 million.

Shares in Conrad suspended

SHARES in Conrad, the sports company that recently lost its bid for Leeds United FC, were suspended at a three-year high of 64½p yesterday, as it prepared to announce a £12 million takeover offer for Sheffield United (Fraser Nelson writes).

Conrad is expected to confirm a reverse bid either today or tomorrow, ending months of City speculation. It is understood to have been in discussion with three other football teams which approached the company after it lost to Caspian in last July's bid for Leeds United. Its shares are expected to start trading again next month.

NHL pays £44m for mortgage portfolio

By CAROLINE MERRELL

NATIONAL Home Loans, the centralised lender, has bought a portfolio of mortgages from a UK bank for £44 million.

The price represents a discount on the assets of the mortgage book, which are believed to be in the region of £50 million. The interest rate on the 1,000 mortgages which comprise the loan portfolio is between 7 per cent and 11.5 per cent. Nick Keen, NHL finance director, said: "We will be reviewing the rates paid by all the borrowers. The rates will be set according to the particular circumstances."

He added that the book contained performing and

non-performing loans. NHL has about 25,000 borrowers who pay between 6.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent interest on their mortgages. NHL has been strongly criticised for keeping the rates for its borrowers high in spite of the overall drop in interest rates.

Mr Keen said the centralised lender would continue to look out for mortgage books which represented value for money. "We are looking for small books at the right price," he said. The purchase is NHL's third since its restructuring and rights issue last year. NHL refused to identify the bank from which the portfolio had come.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Barclays confirms talks with Morgan

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday confirmed that it is in discussions with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank, regarding possible cooperation in the field of global custody. Barclays said a further announcement would be made "at a later date." It is believed Barclays may sell its global custody business, which handles up to £200 billion worth of funds, to Morgan Stanley. The acquisition would make Morgan Stanley one of the largest custodians in the world, in a business that is rapidly consolidating.

Global custody has expanded from safekeeping of shares and bonds to include investment accounting, performance measurement and securities lending. The sector suffers from thin operating margins and high compliance costs and requires significant expenditure on new technology. Martin Taylor, Barclays chief executive, is reported to have decided it should no longer form part of the core business.

Weir power play

WEIR GROUP, the engineering company based in Scotland, has won orders worth more than £10 million to supply specialist pumping equipment to the power generation industry in the Pacific Rim. Three of the four contracts were placed by power contractors based in America, Japan and Germany. Under the terms of the deals, Weir will manufacture a range of equipment for various applications, including boiler feed, condensate extraction and auxiliary feed for power plants in South Korea, China and Thailand.

Angerstein eyes Coffey

ANGERSTEIN Underwriting Trust, the Lloyd's of London agency, is considering the acquisition of P B Coffey, managing agent for Lloyd's Marine Syndicate 902. It was announced yesterday. The Coffey syndicate, established in 1976, has an unbroken record of profits, and the average return over the last five years has been 10.91 per cent. The syndicate has underwriting capacity of £37.5 million for the 1996 account and writes a broad spread of marine business, with strong interests in cargo, hull, liabilities and excess of loss.

Vodafone landmark

VODAFONE, the mobile phone network operator, has signed the millionth subscriber to its digital network. Chris Gent, currently Vodafone's managing director and chief executive designate, said the company had extended the lead over its nearest rival to 300,000 subscribers by the end of September, from a lead of just 17,000 in January. Vodafone has a total subscriber base of more than 2.65 million, which included more than 1.6 million on its analogue network.

Langdons buys rival

LANGDONS FOODS, the coffee and tea merchant, has acquired Café D'Or, a rival London coffee roaster, for £328,000. Langdons proposes to close the company's operations at Bow, east London, and move production to its own headquarters in Woolwich. Café D'Or supplies 300 independent delicatessens, mostly in the South East. Yesterday Langdons reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £76,000 from £37,000 in the half-year to June. Earnings were 0.06p a share (0.04p). A maiden dividend of 0.04p is proposed.

Premier bid rejected

PREMIER OIL, the UK energy company, has had its A\$100 million (about £50 million) takeover bid for Australia's Discovery Petroleum rejected by the Discovery board. Charles Jamieson, chief executive of Premier Oil, said that Discovery had commissioned a third-party valuation of their company, which came up with a value of between 77 cents and 95 cents per share, compared with Premier's offer of 70 cents. Mr Jamieson said Premier was now considering its options. Premier's offer remains open until November 11.

Brandon Hire hitch

SHARES of Brandon Hire fell 23½p to 94p after the tool and catering equipment hire group warned investors that operating profits would not match earlier expectations. The warning coincided with the announcement of the sale of JSL Pasteners in a £2 million deal that will be used to reduce group borrowings. Brian Nathan, chairman of Brandon Hire, said margins in the tool hire division had not yet improved to the same level as the catering division. In addition, the company had incurred reorganisation costs of £350,000.

Arcon mine creates jobs


ARCON INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES is to create 125 jobs as it prepares for full production at its new lead and zinc mine. Arcon, based in Dublin, said most of the jobs at the mine in Galway, County Kilkenny, would be recruited locally from surrounding counties. Full production from Ireland's first zinc and lead mine in more than 20 years is due to start at the beginning of next year. Almost 45 per cent of Arcon is owned by Tony O'Reilly, chairman of the Heinz food group and Independent Newspapers, and his family.

SAS plans SAA alliance

SCANDINAVIAN Airlines System (SAS) plans to form an alliance with South African Airways (SAA) to gain a foothold on the African continent. SAS has existing strategic partnerships with Lufthansa, United Airlines, Thai Airways International and Air Canada. Deregulation has brought the Scandinavian carrier competition on short-haul European services and some domestic routes, notably from British Airways Express and Virgin Express. Last month, Virgin announced a code-sharing agreement with South Africa's Sun Air.

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Della Mason introduces a three-page report on the Medway Towns' recovery

Kent revival onstream

About half a million people who live or work in the Medway Towns, Kent, have good reason to celebrate as the whole area — the towns of Rochester, Gillingham, Chatham, Rainham and Strood — sees the biggest boost of commercial investment in their lifetime.

New roads and a new tunnel — together with a £180 million project — plus state-of-the-art offices, a university and a £160 million housing development on St Mary's Island, are complete or under way. They have created a feeling of optimism in this area astride the River Medway, home to one sixth of the population of Kent.

Just one hour from London, this commuter belt has felt the chilly blast of recession more fiercely than most parts of Britain. It was triggered by the closure of Chatham Royal Naval Dockyard in 1984, the biggest single employer of skilled workers in the area, with the loss of 7,000 jobs. The knock-on effect was immense. Unemployment reached 12 per cent at its height in January 1993.

Recovery is now evident throughout the area. This year the Princess Royal opened the new £80 million Medway Tunnel, a dual carriageway under the Medway. The £100 million Medway Towns Northern Relief Road, which links into the tunnel and

directly onto the M2, providing speedy access to the M25, London, the Channel Tunnel and the Continent, will be completed in early 1999. Travel time to the motorway will drop from one hour to 10 minutes.

English Partnerships, the Government's urban regeneration agency, Thamesport container terminal and Rochester upon Medway City Council financed a £21 million loan to get the project started. The Rochester Bridge Trust and English Partnerships staked part of the investment for the new tunnel, and the Government has now matched the offer and given its financial commitment to the scheme, including repayment of the loan. As a result Kent County Council has become the provider of one of the largest transport projects in the UK.

About 4,000 businesses are located in the area, ranging from avionics at Rochester to financial company headquarters in Chatham and foreign investment in manufacturing in Gillingham.

Business parks in the Medway Towns include the Gillingham Business Park which has won awards for its design and upkeep.

The Medway City Estate, at one end of the new Medway Tunnel, has unique waterside facilities and 2,000 employees

on site. It is ripe for expansion.

The former Chatham dockyard covered 550 acres of prime land. On closure the Government divided it into three, the first being 80 acres of dockyard history and buildings, now the Historic Dockyard. The next 350 acres was scheduled for redevelopment by English Partnerships. Its remit was to prepare the site for redevelopment by providing and marketing opportunities for companies to build new homes, offices, a marina, shops and leisure buildings, all within a masterplan.

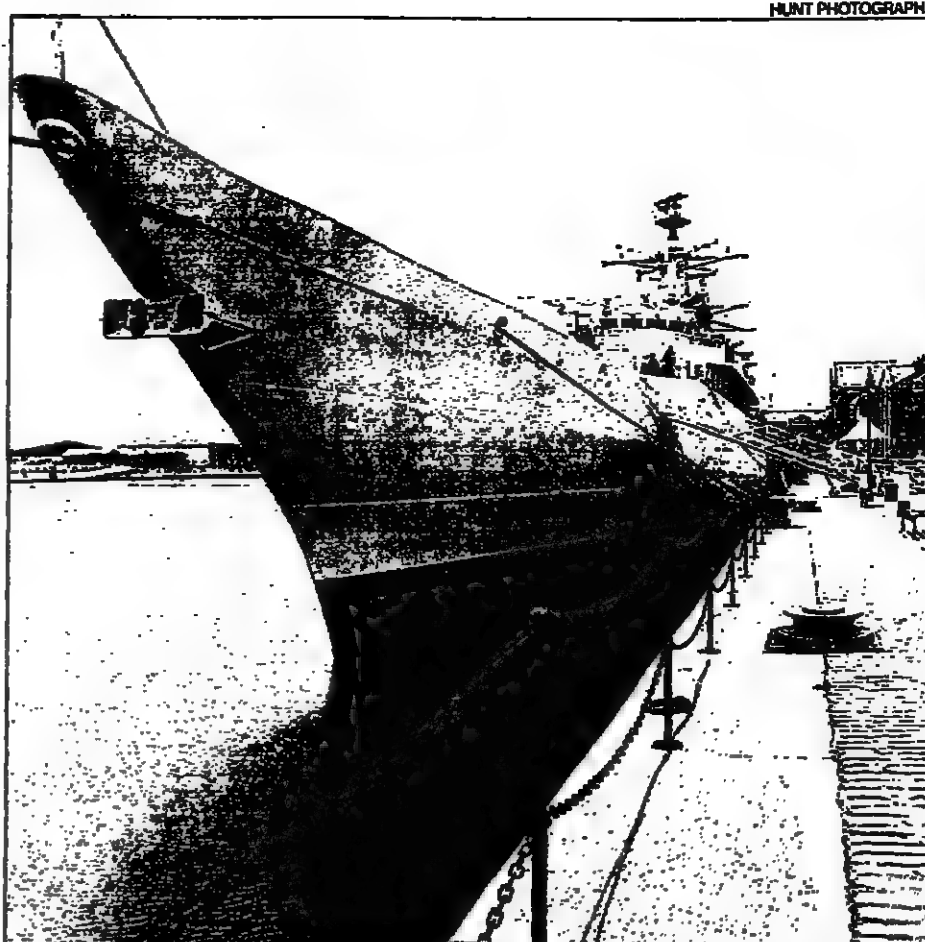
The third area, the waterside and docks at Chatham, was acquired by Medway Ports, which became part of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company, Liverpool, in October 1993.

Twelve years after the dockyard closure, regeneration is taking shape.

Stephen Pritchard of BBP Associates, managing the Chatham Maritime project for English Partnerships, says: "We are delighted that the results are beginning to be seen and appreciated."

"We are regenerating a huge area. When companies look at this now for the first time they are singing a far different tune from seven years ago."

Today's unemployment figures stand at 7.9 per cent and continue to fall as business moves back into the area.



HMS Chatham moored at Chatham Maritime, on the site of the navy dockyards

Island offers life on the river

ST MARY'S ISLAND, Chatham Maritime, a joint venture by English Partnerships and Countryside Properties, is designed to create a complete "island community" on 150 acres.

The first phase of building is almost complete on what were mudflats in the River Medway, once part of the Chatham Royal Naval base. There are single apartments, two and three-bedroom houses, and three and four-bedroom detached houses.

Demand for property on the island, which is lapped by the tides of the Medway estuary and encircled by a riverside walk, has exceeded expectations. The first phase of 47 houses, priced from £44,950 to £79,950 and £180,000, attracted buyers quickly. This has brought forward the whole building programme of 201 properties.

Independent architects are being invited to submit plans for the island school, community hall, a small retail development and a doctor's surgery.

Part of the £160 million project will have riverside houses and overlook a marina. There are 50 acres of parkland in the centre of the island, and a security system.

The next stage to be planned will be a fishermen's village, with a traditional public house at the ancient jetty. Builders from abroad, including one Finnish company, are being invited to bring their own designs.

Richard Moore, the project manager, says: "People of all ages are viewing this development with great excitement. It is unique. Much thought and care is going into the scheme to make it a superb place to live and to enjoy the river."

The site manager, John Sutton, added: "It is an island where families will feel secure and able to relax." The island already has a new £80 million access tunnel.

DELLA MASON

A fitting home for naval history

John Young explores the award-winning maritime museum based at Chatham's Royal Dockyard

The Ministry of Defence has been strongly criticised lately for its alleged insensitivity in disposing of properties that have become surplus to its needs. But its decision in 1984 to hand over the historic core of the great Royal Dockyard, Chatham, Kent, 80 acres of splendid and evocative buildings, many classed as ancient monuments, to a charitable trust to be conserved and managed as a museum, could only have been applauded.

It would have been a tragedy if it had done anything else. For not only is the dockyard at the heart of more than four centuries of naval history, but it also provides a superbly spacious site for the display of an ever-growing collection of maritime treasures which attracts more than 120,000 visitors a year and provides a home for nearly 100 businesses, which employ some 325 people.

In about 1570, the building of a mast pond, storehouses and a forge at Chatham placed it in the forefront of the great age of Elizabethan naval expansion. A decade later, the Queen held a reception for visiting foreign dignitaries, no doubt in order to impress upon them that, as a maritime power, Britain meant business.

Among Chatham's subsequent achievements were the launch of the *Revenge*, celebrated in Tennyson's poem; the "fighting" *Temeraire*, the subject of Turner's most famous painting; and *HMS Victory*, Nelson's flagship in 1805.

The "iron-clad" *Achilles*, then the world's largest ship, was launched in 1863. In wartime (boom) and peacetime (recession) the dockyard

built everything from battleships to nuclear submarines, and from the first experimental catamaran to a pleasure yacht for the Tsar, Peter the Great.

When ships limped home from war, it repaired and relaunched them. Among them were the cruiser *HMS Ajax*, heroine of the Battle of the River Plate, and *HMS Kelly*, the destroyer made famous by her commander Lord Mountbatten.

The trust was initially funded by the Government in a one-off payment of £11.35 million, which has since been supplemented by grants from the Department of National Heritage, charitable donations, rents from commercial tenants and the conversion and sale of some Georgian

buildings for residential use. In 1992, it received the British Tourist Authority's Come to Britain special award for outstanding enterprise.

One of the most publicised attractions of the museum is the Ropery, built to supply the needs of sailing ships which needed some 20 miles of rope for their rigging alone and lines long enough to anchor in 40 fathoms. Ropes are still produced by traditional methods for commercial use, and regular demonstrations are held in a building nearly a quarter of a mile long.

In the same category is the "sail and colour loft", where sails and flags are still produced on a commercial basis. Across the road is *HMS Gannet*, the last surviving Victorian naval sloop, now

being restored for the Maritime Trust. Last May saw the opening of a collection of historic lifeboats, and *HMS Ocelot*, the last submarine built in Chatham, will shortly have a new home in the dockyard.

Perhaps the most enjoyable display is the Wooden Walls gallery in the former Mast House and Mould Loft describes the building of an 18th-century warship as if a young apprentice is telling the story. When funding is available, a parallel exhibition will be installed to describe the building of a later iron vessel when funds permit.

There is also a detailed model of *HMS Victory* which had been built in 1941 for a Hollywood film about Lady Hamilton. The model was donated by the United States Naval Training Centre in San Diego, California. In a way, it seems a pity that the real thing should be in Portsmouth.



Chatham dockyard, once the cradle for the Fleet, now guards the Navy's treasures including a Victorian naval sloop

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Down by the riverside: Chatham has begun to transform itself from a "squaddy town" into a place where white-collar businesses are flourishing

Chatham spreads it wings

What happened to the town when the great Royal Dockyard closed down? John Young reports

On March 30, 1984, after more than four centuries of building and servicing Britain's Navy, the great Royal Dockyard in Chatham closed its gates for the last time.

In an already economically depressed region — at least by the standards of southeast England — the loss of 7,000 jobs in the dockyard itself and hundreds more among the companies which supplied it might have proved catastrophic. In fact it spawned a diversification which has both revived the economy and transformed the environment.

Garrison towns are seldom places of beauty, and Chatham in its naval heyday was no exception. Across the river Rochester had its cathedral, its castle, its picturesque streets and Dickensian heritage, but Chatham was, in the words of John Day, chief executive of the Medway Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "a squaddy town", overwhelmingly dependent on the mili-

tary — Army as well as Navy — with mostly shabby streets and little to encourage inward investment.

That so much has changed is a tribute both to the chamber and to the Medway Enterprise Agency which was established in the early 1980s. The early results were little short of spectacular: some 2,000 new firms set up in the area, and within months, all but some 1,500 former dockyard workers had found new jobs.

But the boom of the late 1980s did not last. By the end of decade recession had struck, and all too many of the brave new enterprises succumbed. Larger firms in the area, such as Metal Box and Wingates, survived mainly unscathed, but GEC Avionics, like the rest of the defence industry, was hit by the "peace dividend" and has since been

forced to shed about half its 6,000-strong workforce.

Many small firms which folded were located on the Medway City Estate, a conventional industrial estate. A more imaginative and better planned approach has been adopted on the Gillingham industrial park, home mostly to companies with more money to invest. It has already won awards for landscaping and the emphasis placed on visual amenities.

Among the newcomers are three Japanese companies: a development attributed by David Neale, a board member of the chamber responsible for marketing, partly to the links formed by one Will Adams, a local man who was invited to Japan in the 1920s to advise on the modernisation of the Imperial Navy.

Equally important to the area's economic revival has

been Chatham Maritime, established by English Estates, and now the responsibility of its successor English Partnerships, to redevelop and revitalise some 350 acres formerly occupied by the dockyard.

Among the mainly white-collar newcomers are Colonial Mutual, Amec Civil Engineering, Abbey National, Central Television, South Bank Systems, the Natural Resources Institute and Kent County Council. A new marina, with waterside hotels and restaurants, will enhance the amenities and residential developments will help to meet the shortage of "executive" housing.

Chatham has not lost its seagoing tradition. Chatham Docks, a new commercial port opened after the closure of the

dockyard, is owned and operated by Medway Ports, a division of Mersey Docks and Harbour Company. It is home to about 20 shipping, transport and distribution companies, engaged notably in steel and timber products, and employs more than 200 people.

There are one or two clouds on an otherwise generally bright horizon. One is the huge new Bluewater out-of-town shopping development in nearby Dartford, which, it is feared, could damage local retailers. Another is the failure to derive more advantages from the Channel Tunnel rail link: it had been hoped that the line would run further north and that Medway, rather than Ashford, would be chosen as the main interchange station in Kent.

Another temporary grievance concerns the new road tunnel under the Medway. After years of pleading it has finally been built and opened, but for the moment it lacks the all-important access roads.

John Grigsby looks at the reluctant marriage of neighbours Rochester and Gillingham

Wedding wail from two cities



Rochester Cathedral is one of the main tourist attractions of the city

If there is a bureaucratic heaven, the marriage of the City of Rochester upon Medway with the borough of Gillingham was definitely not made there.

Gillingham is being dragged protesting to the altar, to merge with Rochester on April 1, 1998, following Parliament's approval in July of the order creating the new authority of 200,000 people. It will also form a new Medway county, carved out of Kent.

Despite their geographical proximity, Rochester and Gillingham are unlikely bedfellows. Almost all they have in common is Chatham dockyard: the historic docks are in Rochester's area and Chatham Maritime, with its associated business park, in Gillingham.

Rochester is dominated by the great set piece of the Norman keep and Cathedral and cherishes its links with Charles Dickens. Gillingham is a town of neat terraced houses, the legacy of its growth in the mid-19th century as a dormitory for the Royal Navy Dockyard and the associated military establishments along the Medway.

The changeover is complex: 38 groups of officers from the three councils involved are considering the changeover, and 80 per cent of the staff and functions will come from Kent County Council, which vigorously fought to keep the county intact.

Matters are further complicated by Rochester's status as a city, which will have to appear in the title of the new authority if it is to be retained. A decision on the new authority's name and coat of arms will be taken after the shadow elections on April 1.

And then there are politics. Gillingham is controlled by the Liberal

Democrats, while Rochester is staunchly Labour. The parliamentary seats are held by Conservatives, but there are few Tories on the two councils. Although all parties are pledged to make the new authority work, Bob Sayer, Liberal Democrat leader of Gillingham, says: "We are terribly disappointed. We do not have much in common. Most people in

Gillingham regard Rochester as conservative with a small 'c', while we are much more visionary and we have a strong community spirit which will be swamped." Gillingham has set out aggressively to attract business. Japanese firms, including Fujitsu, have already moved to the area and 90 per cent of its business park is occupied. While Gillingham held on to its

3,500 council houses and prides itself on providing the homeless with temporary accommodation, Rochester sold its entire stock to a building society, the interest enabling it to avoid levying a district council tax for three years.

John Shaw, Labour leader of Rochester, said the new authority would be more powerful, enabling it to develop the economy of the whole area which had been devastated by the closure of Chatham dockyard in the mid-1980s.

"Anything we have done, or Gillingham has done, since then has affected both areas," he said. "It has been monstrous really not to have a co-ordinated policy."

Nevertheless, to many the decision of John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, who was educated at King's School, Rochester, appears illogical. Kent will lose 5 per cent of its population, but 15 per cent of its budget.

There is little popular support. Of those questioned for a MORI poll, 63 per cent in Gillingham and 53 per cent in Rochester opted for no change. Apart from the transitional costs, estimated by the commission to be £7.8 million-£11.2 million, the average Band D taxpayer in Kent is expected to pay an extra £23 a year, and residents of the two towns an average of £190 a year to cover the costs of the change.

Many regard Kent as a well-run authority which has capitalised on its geographical position and spread the benefits to the whole county. Now some business quarters fear these policies will be jeopardised when Medway becomes its own little county.

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The Dickens of a time

Della Mason on how the Medway towns celebrate their links with the great novelist

Medway life in the 1800s is chronicled in Charles Dickens's novel *Great Expectations*. Today Rochester High Street steps back into the past at least three times a year to take on the atmosphere created by the writer, who loved the town, who knew every cranny there and who wrote about and immortalised local people.

The annual celebration of the Dickensian Christmas (on December 7 and 8 this year), one of the main events on the tourist calendar, evokes the memory of the Victorian winters he described so vividly. The visitor can rub shoulders with Scrooge (albeit the 1996 version in costume), Mr Pickwick or any one of the huge cast of characters that Dickens drew from real life. Local people insist that you can still meet those recognisable Dickens characters. Dickens at Rochester is an important part of the Medway Towns' tourism trade. In 1995, 437,000 visitors were attracted to places of interest including the Charles Dickens Centre, Rochester Castle, and Chatham Historic Dockyard.

Many thousands more flock from all over the world to the street extravaganzas: the Rochester Sweeps Festival (May), the Dickens Festival (May/June) and Dickensian Christmas with its bellingers, horse-drawn vehicles and music-hall shows.

Rochester is also hoping to



Many thousands flock from all over the world to the Dickens Festival

become known as a festival city. It has a sports festival, the summer Medway Arts Festival with top orchestras performing open-air, a Norman Rochester event, where everyone dresses in costume, and the Stood Steam Fair (traction engines, costumes not obligatory).

The principal events officer, Carl Madjitey, is a busy man. The summer Dickens Festival was launched 18 years ago, and has

grown year by year. The streets are full of crinolines, frock coats and costumes, and people travel hundreds of miles to tumble from cars, faces painted and wearing wigs: all part of the frivolity and fun.

These events, neither highbrow nor exacting, are sheer amusement. There is dancing in the street, laughter — and the children love it. Dickensian Christmas is a picture story, with real snow — yes, if

it does not snow, they bring it in — and ice for skaters. "It actually feels like Christmas here... with the snow and the twinkling lights and ladies in big fur-trimmed bonnets. It is very enticing," says Mr Madjitey. He adds that the whole idea of their Dickensian Christmas is to step back in time — and take things slowly.

"People say to me 'But what happens at the Christmas event?' In fact it is people doing their Christmas shopping, meeting friends and enjoying it all at a leisurely pace. We are so unused to that today. But once you do wind down, it really is fabulous. The carol singers from Rochester Cathedral come out to sing carols in the snow... It just feels like Christmas the way it should be, the way it was..."

With the High Street closed to cars, staff in bars and coffee shops are in white caps and aprons for most of the year. Dickens would have felt at ease here. He lived at Gads Hill Place, two miles from Rochester, and spent his early boyhood in Chatham, when his father moved to work in the pay office at the naval dockyard, and he knew every inch of Medway.

A new £1 million Tourist Visitor Centre opened in August in Rochester. There are plans to provide one ticket to cover all the places of interest with coach pick-up points.

But Rochester has other new plans. After a huge success of the summer arts festival — of classical music — plus the return of the Royal Shakespeare Company in November with the *Comedy of Errors*, there is a mood to introduce an event to celebrate the works of Dickens. The council is hoping to attract big hotels to the area with its new marketing strategy, and is planning to expand Dickens tourism and festivals.



The model campus: the Grade I listed buildings were formerly the officers' and ratings' quarters

Making waves in science

Medway Campus: from naval college to learning centre

The University of Greenwich, London, is growing at a rate that few British universities can equal. Having acquired the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, from next year, it has also firmly established its School of Earth and Environmental Sciences — and now opened its School of Engineering — at the new Medway Campus, Chatham Maritime, in Kent.

The campus will offer higher educational facilities to 2,500 students. Six hundred have already begun their degree courses.

The Grade I listed university buildings were the officers' and ratings' quarters. Where the ratings slept in long rows of slung hammocks there are now libraries, lecture halls and laboratories.

In 1994 the university — now the tenth largest in Britain — decided to move to the Medway Towns, which had no equivalent university or higher education facility. "Such a high population needed in its midst the learning facilities that we offer," Professor David Willis, Dean of the Faculty of the Environment at the Medway Campus, says.

About 60 per cent are of the

London, it also put together a joint venture company — the Natural Resources International Ltd — to become the business-winning arm of NRI. The institute aims to win more managed research, consultancy and training projects. The NRI staff, who have tremendous hands-on experience abroad, will also lecture students on environmental studies and earth sciences.

Just back from China, where the university is establishing yet another arm, Professor Willis says that the Medway Campus is also working in the Medway Towns with local authorities and business people. "We hope to encourage businesses to use our services. There are superb laboratories and our new School of Engineering, which opened this year, is ideally based here in Medway, where so many people have great engineering skills."

DELLA MASON

The University's School of Engineering, in particular, is seen as an exciting catalyst for the Medway Towns. There are open days from next month. Details on 0800 005 006.

John Grigsby reports on the environment and the pressures posed by development. Will they ever get along?

Despite the international importance of its estuary as a wildlife habitat, the River Medway faces pressures which are as acute as those on any river in Britain.

The estuary is recognised as of international importance — it supports 70,000 waders and wildfowl in winter. But the wide channels and sheltered harbours, with their easy access to the North Sea which made it a natural home for the Royal Navy at Chatham and

Estuary wildlife at risk

Sheerness in the 17th and 18th centuries, also attracted paper mills and power stations in the 20th. For years they — and the ships which served them — discharged their detritus into the river.

Recent government legislation with its stiff fines for pollution has changed that, but the river's various roles

add to the pressure on the Medway. As a navigable highway, the river is becoming increasingly busy. It handles about 20,500 commercial vessels a year, with a grand total of 24 million tonnes.

It falls within the Thames Gateway, the area between Greenwich and Sheerness which the Government hopes to revive, and where there is pressure for development along the banks to cope with derelict land and tackle the high rates of unemployment.

When it comes to a choice between reviving the economy and protecting the environment, the economy often wins. In July, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds won an important victory when the European Court ruled that the Government had acted illegally by leaving Lappel Bank out of the Medway Estuary Special Protection area for economic reasons. But the mudflats, supporting important bird species, had already been destroyed.

It is also an important recreational area with 4,000 resident moorings for yachts and cabin cruisers and many yacht clubs and marinas. Nor is that all.

Chris Corrigan, senior conservation officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, says: "As well as development pressures in the

Medway, you have also got issues such as sea level rise. When you build sea walls, the sea level rises and you get drowning of the coastal habitats."

"The problem with a place like the Medway is that southeast England is packed with people and when they have got people pressures next to wildlife pressures, inevitably you get problems."

A new Medway Estuary and Swale Management plan which seeks to reconcile the conflicting interests will be published in February and Andrew Paley, estuary project officer for the North Kent Marshes Initiative, says that they will publish the final proposals in July. Although it will not be a statutory document, the various parties will be obliged to take it into consideration.

The local councils, the Sports Council, English Nature, the RSPB, the port companies, the fisheries and agricultural interests have taken part along with those whose livelihood depends on the river or who use it for pleasure.

Mr Paley says that five main areas of concern have been identified during the year and a half of discussion: sustainability, judging how much activity the area can take and how environmental habitats can be conserved and replaced; land use, including the use of brownfield sites; dredging; recreational access; and management and public education and awareness.

Medway Ports, the harbour conservancy and pilotage authority for the 17.3 miles river downstream from Allington Lock to the Medway Buoy, advises sailors how to avoid disturbing the wintering flocks of geese, ducks and waders which have bred in the far north of Europe.

Its jurisdiction covers the Swale, Queenborough Harbour and Milton and Faversham creeks. The rest of the 60-mile river is non-tidal. Its Marine Division, headed by captain Derek Stoyles, the Harbour Master and a veteran of 34 years on the Medway, includes a river inspectorate whose responsibilities include monitoring all hazardous materials passing through the port, investigating and reporting on oil pollution, controlling yacht moorings and liaising with recreational groups and motor yachting organisations.

Users believe that the quality of the river is improving despite the pressures. Nigel Taylor, who manages Elm Haven marina which holds about 50 boats at Halling, three miles from Rochester, says: "I think Medway Ports do a pretty good job, although it might be able to do more if it had a bit more money to police the river."

"When I first came here as a boat owner ten years ago, the smell at low tide was sometimes awful. The firms and

catches. But I have to admit that the river still does not look very clean."

Brian Clayton, membership secretary for the Medway River Users' Association, says: "Really the only beef we have is that rubbish collects below Allington Lock and never seems to get sorted out at all. Otherwise we believe that the river is clean and much less polluted than it was."

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VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on a monumental Picasso exhibition in Paris; plus London galleries

Portraits of the exorcist

In terms of the subjects he chose to paint, Picasso was surprisingly traditional. Even at the height of his revolutionary attempt to overhaul the language of modern art, he resisted the new, machine-age motifs favoured by so many of his avant-garde contemporaries. Time and again, portraits and still life claimed Picasso's attention. And of the two, portraiture lay closer to the centre of his protean imagination.

Picasso never lost his youthful fascination with the faces and bodies he saw around him. Indeed, his appetite for portraits became voracious as he grew older. While spurning the whole notion of an officially commissioned likeness, he never tired of scrutinising his wives, mistresses, children and friends. They may not have recognised the drastic distortions he unleashed on their features. But there is no mistaking his obsessive involvement with them, and a monumental Paris exhibition called *Picasso and the Portrait* contains an overwhelming number of his most fiercely impassioned works.

The survey commences in a wintry mood. Only two paintings are hung in the circular vastness of the first room, and they both belong to the Blue Period as its most melancholy. Free from the sentimentality which so often marred his work then, they show no desire to flatter. One, a 1901 self-portrait of the bearded, pallid artist buttoned up against the cold, is unexpectedly rough in execution. The other, a 1904 portrait of Carlotto Valdivia, shows an old woman staring out guardedly from the shelter of her dark hood.

Before 1907, however, nothing really prepares us for the violence Picasso turned on himself in that year. Here, at a time when *Les Femmes d'Alger* heralded the birth of Cubism, he reduces his own features to a scaffold of crude, black lines. The flat hair stamped at a brusque diagonal across his forehead seems to proclaim an angry, resolute mood. His elongated nose has a phallic obscenity.

This is the portrait of a 26-

year-old artist hellbent on attacking worn-out ways of painting. In order to arrive at a new forcefulness. Even as he moved into the great, investigative period of Cubism, though, this complex young innovator proved reluctant to abandon the time-honoured practice of portraiture. Some of the most severe and apparently impersonal figure paintings from these years are, in fact, based on specific people. Fernande Olivier, with whom he lived at the time, is first seen as the subject of tender images during the Rose Period. Then, in 1908, she is transformed into the stern and sculptural *Woman with a*

His
detestation
of his wife
generates
splendid
pictures

Fan, stripped of all detail and as grave as an enthroned prophetic.

The most impressive wall of Cubist exhibits turns out to display three portraits of dealers. All painted in 1910, they are marvellously distinct characterisations. Wilhelm Uhde, one of the first to admire the much-vilified *Demoiselles*, emerges from Picasso's splintering of form as a chiselled, flinty and frowning presence with puritanically pursed lips. He could hardly be more removed from the earthiness of the bearded, brooding Ambroise Vollard, who had given Picasso his first one-man show. He looks sulky, and the Cubist fragmentation cannot disguise his bear-like bulk. He seems weighty in brain as well as body, and contrasts completely with the portrait of Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler. A shrewd champion of the Cubist cause, Kahnweiler is subjected to a greater degree of formal shattering than the other two dealers. With a playful smile

curving across his face like a pencil moustache, Kahnweiler seems the most mischievous of the three men.

There was little room for portraits then, and they only reappear in quantity after Picasso met his first wife, Olga, in 1917. A dancer with Diaghilev's Russian Ballet, she appears controlled to the point of iciness in a neo-classical painting produced soon afterwards. Based on a photograph of Olga in the studio, it is one of Picasso's smoothest and least convincing performances.

It is a relief when the marriage begins to collapse, for Picasso's growing detestation of his wife generates some splendidly energetic heads. Olga becomes a predatory monster, snarling with fangs ready to bite. By the time he painted the large *Seated Bathing* in 1930, she is nothing more than a skeletal apparition on the beach.

This is portraiture as revenge and exorcism, the work of a man now prepared to lose himself in a voluptuous affair with the young blonde Marie-Thérèse Walter. All the Olga-inspired venom drains away for a while, as the justful Picasso turns a woman less than half his age into his new muse. She inspired the most erotic nudes he ever produced, and in a headlong painting called *The Mirror* he seems to reverse Velazquez's *Rokby Venus* to further his own sensual purposes. Instead of lying with her back to us like the Venus, Marie-Thérèse is shown from the front with global breasts exposed. And rather than following Velazquez's example by reflecting her face in the mirror, Picasso fills the glass with his lover's provocative buttocks.

To judge by the rapturous rhythms of so many undulating Marie-Thérèse-inspired paintings in 1932, this was the year when their relationship peaked. Three years later, he met the Surrealist photographer Dora Maar and embarked on a sharply contrasting set of images. In most of his alliances with women, Picasso's portraits proceed



The Mirror (1932) celebrates Picasso's affair with the young Marie-Thérèse Walter

from initial tenderness to terminal ugliness. But Dora's do not conform to this remorseless pattern. As early as 1937, she disintegrates into the fractured anguish of *Weeping Woman*, where the jagged handkerchief threatens to compound her misery by slicing into her eyeballs.

Since *Guernica* was painted in the same year, we cannot dissociate this woman's distress from the lacerating, protesting grief of her counterparts in Picasso's epic pictorial assault on the horrors of the Spanish Civil War. Nor do we know whether he intended *Weeping Woman* to be a portrait, as opposed to a personification of bereavement. At times, I wondered whether the otherwise magnificent exhibition limited the

meaning of certain paintings by underlining the identity of the people on whom they are based. Picasso worked from memory or photographs rather than sitters, and these astoundingly inventive images flouted all preconceived notions about what a portrait might be.

But there are moments when he undoubtedly focuses on the personality and appearance of his subject. The affectionate, vulnerable 1942 *Portrait of Dora Maar* is one of them, and the close-up paintings of his two children Claude and Paloma provide another example a decade later. His last wife Jacqueline is, however, the woman whose likeness he honours most fre-

quently. Throughout the experiments he makes in these final years, her large-eyed and imperious features are easy to identify.

So are the trio of late self-portrait drawings that bring the show to such a harrowing conclusion. Made in his nineties, they are utterly unsparring. Picasso now sees his mottled and decaying face as a death's head, and confronts the imminence of extinction with the same toughness he had inflicted on his youthful features back in 1907. Despite all the startling stylistic upheavals his work underwent in the decades between, this hard resolution remained unaltered at the end.

● Picasso and the Portrait is at the Grand Palais, Paris (02 33 1 44 13 17) until Jan 20

AROUND THE GALLERIES

AMONG Raymond Mason's elaborate, frequently grotesque sculptures there are a number of low reliefs of architectural prospects, mainly Parisian. They have achieved less notice than his crowded scenes of human figures caught in moments of everyday pleasure or exceptional pain — for obvious reasons, since works such as Mason's evocation of a mining disaster, *A Tragedy in the North*, compel a strong reaction, whether of love or detestation. The purely architectural panoramas, on the other hand, are, if not more conventional (for who else is doing anything remotely like them today?), at least less emotionally committing.

One such, *The Louvre, The Richelieu Wing*, is the centrepiece of Mason's new show at Marlborough Fine Art, a culminating tribute to his 50-year devotion to the city. But the rest of the show comes as a complete surprise. One would assume, of course, that Mason must have made many preliminary studies of the buildings around him in order to record them in polyester resin. But who would have expected to see this succession of meticulously executed watercolour townscapes (along with a couple in oils), testifying to Mason's absolute obsession with detail? *Marlborough Fine Art*, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-639 5161). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm, until Nov 9.

□ THERE are few better eyes in the business than Chris Beetles's for discerning the merits of neglected or forgotten artists who would now, rather mean-

inglessly, be grouped under the catch-all heading 'Modern British'.

Many of his discoveries have been made through gathering material for a succession of annual shows devoted to British illustrators. But when one remembers that he is also the great current proponent of Albert Goodwin and the 20th-century watercolourist successors to Turner, it will surprise no one that the latest artist to be taken under his wing is the 'rediscovered genius' Cecil Arthur Hunt (1873-1963). Hunt was prominent in the Royal Watercolour Society and the Royal Society of British Artists, but seems to have been totally uninterested in selling himself to a wider public.

Indeed, to look at the list of his travels over 30 years in the beautifully illustrated book which accompanies the show (E15), it is a wonder that he achieved the fame he did. He had a passion for mountains, and even his smallest works are monumental in conception. The most evident influence is mature Turner, but from time to time we are reminded that all of Hunt's professional career belongs to the 20th century: not only are there occasional examples of industrial romanticism, but also some of the paintings have a crispness of outline which recalls less Turnerian artists such as D.Y. Cameron. 'Genius' is not, perhaps, overstating the case.

Chris Beetles, 8 & 10 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-839 7551). Mon-Sat 10am-5.30pm, until Oct 25.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR



Hunt's *Château de Crussol, Valence* (1927)

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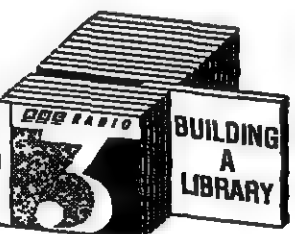
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

Chopin's Waltzes
Reviewed by
Stephen Plaistow

CHOPIN authorised only eight of his waltzes for publication and was concerned that the others should not circulate without his consent. The 'extras' comprise early works together with a smaller number of pieces from his maturity that he gave to friends and initiates as presents and *pièces d'album*. Posterity has rightly judged that we would be the poorer without them, whatever Chopin's wishes may have been. There are more than 20 CDs currently available which include the eight published waltzes plus a varying number of the others, usually six but sometimes as many as ten or eleven.

The waltzes inhabit the salon and elevate its conventions into a sophisticated art-form, and they reveal a lot about the performer, who must waltz them in his head as he plays. They are merciless in showing up the limitations of an interpreter's personality, and not just in the rhythm department. Some good players keep your attention for a while and then become predictable, or forget that virtuosity should always serve the exuberance of the dance.

In Dinu Lipatti's still unsurpassed studio recording of 1950 one is hardly aware of detail any more, only of Chopin's voice (EMI CDC 69802-2, £9.99). Alfred Cortot said of his former pupil that he was 'perfection'. Cortot's searing oratory was not always so



immaculately realised in keyboard terms, but the six-CD set (if you can run to it) of his historic Chopin recordings, which includes the same 14 waltzes as Lipatti played, is indispensable (EMI CZS 7 67359-2, budget price).

Modern recordings to put beside these are not too plentiful. At budget price, Philip Fowke is personable, nicely recorded, and he captures a balletic lightness and grace that eludes the many players who over-project (Classics for Pleasure CD-CFPSD 4790, a two-CD album also including the sonatas, budget price).

A recommendable single CD at budget price is Tamas Vassary's, though the 1965 recording rather tells against it (DG 439 406-2). For a modern digital recording of all-round excellence, at full price, my recommendation is Jean-Philippe Collard, who plays 19 waltzes with the kind of cultivated pianism and precision of sound that are hallmarks of the best French players. If at first he seems cool, his calibre is soon apparent and he makes you want to listen to and on (EMI CDC 7 4641-2, available only through EMI's Special Import Service).

● To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6KZ or freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
● Next Saturday on Radio 3 (4pm): A.C.P.E. Bach Survey

CONCERTS: America sends three sopranos to take on the tenors; a chamber orchestra without a conductor



Girls' night out: sopranos Kallen Esperian, Cynthia Lawrence and Kathleen Cassello

Three little maids

IT HAD to happen. With the Three Tenors limbering up towards retirement, it was only a matter of time before the Three Sopranos invented themselves. They swept in on Sunday for their European debut, a touching reminder of London's standing in the musical world. Having learnt from the mistakes of many a rained-out Three Tenors concert they took the precaution of holding theirs indoors, and almost managed to fill the London Palladium. They forgot that indoors neither they nor the London Philharmonic would need amplification, but the polite audience gave the most painful top Cs the longest applause.

At ticket prices a fraction of what their colleagues had charged, they still managed to supply One Tenor — Pavarotti, whose appearance in his box delayed the start. Unlike the instantly recognisable

Tenors, the Americans Kallen Esperian, Cynthia Lawrence and Kathleen Cassello are not well known here.

Still, this bringing together of three prima donnas was a significant occasion. It is not the nature of the animal to share the limelight, but as the evening progressed the knowing smiles that flashed every time a difficult passage was to be negotiated gave way to genuine high spirits and an impression that they were having a good night out.

The first half of the programme featured operatic excerpts — opera for people who don't like opera, and wouldn't be turned on to it by Marco Armiliato's unsparring account of the *Figaro* overture. But at least he was supportive of his singers. It was not long before *O mio babbino* appeared, and the only surprise was at not hearing the *Lakmé* duet: perhaps BA owns the

performing rights these days. The medleys, by arrangers who made up for what they lacked in taste with ingenious modulations, worked better in the lighter second half, which opened with a deliciously vamped-up *Three Little Maids*.

But the concert would not have been complete without each singer's solo slot. Lawrence revealed strong but steely tone in *Madam Butterfly's Un bel di*, and Cassello was ill at ease with the coloratura of *Sempre libera* from *La traviata*. With her silvery soprano and soft, controlled singing of Kern's *All The Things You Are* and numbers from *Il trovatore*, Esperian easily won the talent contest. It's good that she will be back as the Royal Opera's Desdemona in the spring — and without amplification.

JOHN ALLISON

HOT-FOOTING it from Berlin's Konzerthaus, the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra of New York arrived at the Barbican for London's share of the imaginative Group Dynamics concert series, which twins the two cities and the two halls.

The shared programme this time had as its centrepiece the homegrown Symphony No 3. *The Camp Meeting* of Charles Ives, a welcome return performance by a composer proudly and justly celebrated at the Barbican earlier this year. The Orpheus Chamber Orchestra play without a conductor, and the sense of constant flux in Ives's music was articulated with keen, vividly variegated playing born of close listening.

These three movements — *Old Folks Gathering*, *Children's Day* and *Communion* — reverberate with the echoes of half-remembered, far-off things. As a solo oboe filters through the strings, like a shaft of light through a chapel window, one rhythm, one texture becomes refracted through another.

Mahler, when he was conducting the New York Philharmonic in 1910, seized enthusiastically on this symphony and asked for a copy, intending to perform it in Europe. He died, alas, the following year. He had also given his blessing to Schubert's *Death and the Maiden* string quartet, despite his generally low opinion of the composer's chamber music, by arranging it for string orchestra, and the OCO's performance movingly revealed the subtle responses of one composer to another.

For the slow movement, where Schubert's eponymous song becomes abstracted into instrumental variations, the violins' note-by-note searching out of the hushed melody was articulated within one long

Sainted Ives

current of breath. In the outer movements, supple melodic contours lifted the music through each modulation of key and texture, even if Mahler's arrangement takes some

of the sting out of the tail of the angry Scherzo.

In between these works, trumpeter Hakan Hardenberger joined the OCO: first with piccolo trumpet, limber and light-filled, for Bach's Second Brandenburg Concerto, then noble and assured, with the later, fully adult keyed trumpet, for Haydn's E flat Concerto.

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LAW

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'This is only the start'



Lord Mackay of Clashfern,
above, explains proposals for a better-targeted, best-value legal aid system



A woman approaches T.V. Edwards, East End solicitors, in search of legal aid: is the present system out of control?

The latest figures for legal aid spending show an increase of 10 per cent in the year to August. The nature of the present scheme makes it impossible to control the amount spent. But what is certain is that we cannot afford to go on spending more and more on legal aid.

Like the members of the public polled in a recent Law Society survey, I believe that legal aid plays a vital role in helping people to get justice. But there must be radical change to create a better targeted and more flexible legal aid system that can meet the challenges of the future.

In July we set out in the White Paper, *Striking the Balance*, our plans for reforming legal aid in England and Wales. Since then we have been laying the foundations for our reforms. We intend to make progress in careful stages, piloting the changes and consulting widely to make sure that we get the details right.

Our reforms have four main objectives: to control the total cost of legal aid, to increase value for money, to target appropriate services on the most deserving cases, and to ensure fair treatment for everyone involved. We will do this in several ways.

For the first time, legal aid will have a predetermined budget. We are widening the scope of this scheme to bring in new types of services, such as advice agencies. We can do this only because the prospect of controlling the overall cost allows us to do so.

Legal aid will be targeted to take account of national priorities and local needs, on the advice of independent regional legal services committees. Most legally aided services will be provided under contracts. Budgets and contracts will be flexible and the contracting process will be organised so that money cannot simply run out.

There will be a new test for deciding whether civil cases should get legal aid.

We also propose a package of changes to the financial qualifications for legal aid. These will ensure that the scheme is fair to those on legal aid, their opponents and the taxpayer. More people will be expected to pay towards their cases. This will encourage them to think carefully and responsibly about the action they intend to take. But people who cannot afford to pay for legal aid will still receive the support they need from the public purse.

Our plans are not designed to cut the present level of spending on legal aid. Rather,

they will ensure that available resources stretch further to help more people and are targeted at those with the greatest need, as well as giving control from year to year of the amount to be spent.

The White Paper set out a four to five-year programme for implementing the changes. This involves developing contracts to cover all the different types of legal aid, as well as a series of measures immediately to improve the operation of the current scheme. We can do much of this under the existing Legal Aid Act, and work has already begun.

Gary Streeter, the Parliamentary Secretary, and I, as well as officials from our department, have started detailed discussions with representatives of the legal profession and other potential providers of legal aid. The Parliamentary Secretary also intends to visit a number of local Law Societies around the country to discuss implementing the reforms.

We will soon be placing advertisements for people to chair the new regional legal services committees. The committees will begin their work by April 1997.

The Legal Aid Board has been piloting contracts with

voluntary advice agencies for more than a year. In August it published for consultation its proposals for the second phase of that pilot. By December, the board will be in a position to invite formal applications and new contracts will be in place during the first half of 1997.

These will be followed by contracts with private solicitors firms to provide legally aided advice and assistance. Earlier this month, the board appointed researchers to assist with this pilot, and it intends to publish proposals early next year. The first contracts should begin around the middle of 1997.

The pilot for contracts with family mediators will follow much the same timetable. The proposals should be available for consultation by Christmas.

The board has also already begun work on two more pilots. These will look at one-off contracts for very expensive cases, starting with multiparty actions, and contracts to provide duty solicitor cover at police stations and magistrates' courts.

A system of graduated standard fees for Crown Court advocates has been settled and will come into force in January. It comes after the successful introduction of standard fees in the Crown Court in 1986 and the magistrates' courts in 1993.

In July I started consultation on standard fees for advocates in civil cases and litigators in family cases. Standard fees help not only to control costs under the existing scheme as an interim measure but also to meet any desire to provide a quicker, more certain payment system. They also prepare the way for the introduction of fixed-price contracts.

I have introduced measures to strengthen the arrangements for means testing, apparently wealthy applicants for legal aid. A special investigations unit is already operating in civil cases and will expand to cover criminal cases.

We had made a good start on a long and complex programme. The activities I have described are only the beginning but they show the Government is committed to careful progress and consultation. We remain determined to make the necessary changes to the legal aid scheme and look forward to pressing ahead with the reforms.

● The author is Lord Chancellor.

Judging the right to a fair trial

Yesterday in Strasbourg, the European Court of Human Rights heard oral argument in *Gregory v The United Kingdom*, an important case concerning alleged racial bias by a member of a jury.

In November 1991, David Gregory was tried at Manchester Crown Court on charges of robbery. Gregory is black. While the jury were considering their verdict, one juror sent a note to the judge. It said: "Jury showing racial overtones. One member to be excused." The judge redirected the jury to decide the case on the evidence, and to put any prejudice out of their minds. Three hours later, the jury convicted the defendant by a majority verdict — ten votes to two. He was jailed for six years.

Gregory contends that there was a breach of Article 6 (1) of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to a fair hearing before an impartial tribunal. He argues that the note was evidence that the jury was not impartial, and that the judge should either have discharged the jury or, at least, made inquiries as to the facts.

The European Commission of Human Rights (the lower judicial body in Strasbourg) found against Gregory by eight votes to three last year. The majority decision concluded that the trial judge had carefully directed the jury to avoid bias, and that this, together with the absence of any further difficulty before the verdict was given, sufficed to dispel any legitimate doubts about the impartiality of the jury.

Before the European Court, Gregory relies on a judgment given by them in April in a similar case of *Remli v France*. The applicant, a French national of Algerian origin, attempted to escape from prison by attacking a warder who subsequently died from the blows received. During the applicant's trial for intentional homicide in 1989, he complained to the Rhone Assize Court that immediately before the proceedings one of the jurors had made a remark, "What's more, I'm a racist", which had been overheard by a person unconnected with the case. The Assize Court took no action. The applicant was convicted, and sentenced to life imprisonment.

By five votes to four, the European Court upheld Remli's complaint that there had been a breach of his right to a fair trial. The majority concluded that Article 6 (1) "imposes an obligation on every national court to check whether, as constituted, it is an impartial tribunal" where that is "disputed on a ground that does not immediately appear to be manifestly devoid of merit". The Assize Court had made no such check. It had deprived MRemi of the possibility of securing a remedy for a situation which may have been

contrary to the requirements of the Convention. The European Court added that the finding of a violation of Article 6 (1) was a sufficient remedy, with the addition that France had to pay the costs of the proceedings in Strasbourg. The court said that it had no jurisdiction to order a retrial.

The four dissenting judges argued that the applicant could not establish any reasonable likelihood that the alleged remark was decisive as to Remli's guilt. The complaint was "trivial". Taken out of a context whose details and particular circumstances were unknown, it "might only have been a joke" (as the French Government, somewhat surprisingly, had submitted).

Racism, in a jury or elsewhere, is no laughing matter. The serious point the European Court will be considering in Gregory's case is whether Article 6 (1) obliges the trial judge to investigate a complaint of racism, or whether other steps may suffice to ensure that the tribunal's impartiality is maintained.

The court is likely to conclude that, depending on the facts of a particular case, Article 6 (1) can be satisfied by something less than a judicial investigation of alleged racism. The defect in Remli was that the domestic court chose to ignore the matter, without considering the evidence submitted to it, on "the purely formal ground" that it was not able to take note of events alleged to have occurred outside its presence.

By contrast, in *Gregory* the trial judge took immediate steps to emphasise to the jurors their obligation to decide the case on the evidence. Though the failure of other recent challenges to the impartiality of British juries illustrates the difficulties faced by Gregory.

In February, in *Hardiman*, the European Commission of Human Rights rejected a complaint by a convicted defendant that a trial had been unfair because a female juror sent a note to counsel for one of the other defendants (who was acquitted) asking him to have a drink with her. And in June, the European Court held in *Pullar* (again by five votes to four) that there had been no breach of Article 6 (1) in a criminal trial in Perth, Tayside, where a junior employee of a company served as a juror even though one of his firm's partners was a principal prosecution witness.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

Equality creeps nearer

THE PROSPECT of the first woman to lead the Bar has emerged with the election of Heather Hallett, QC, as its vice-chairman for 1997. Ms Hallett, who is married to a barrister, in 1989 became a QC and also a Crown Court recorder. She specialises in criminal law and was appointed a deputy High Court judge in 1995, the year she was elected leader of the South Eastern circuit.

Robert Owen, QC, the current vice-chairman, has been elected unopposed as chairman.

INNS AND OUTS



Hallett: on the ladder

● Recruitment business is booming again — so much so that the leading recruitment consultancy Quarry Dougal has opened a new Birmingham office to add to its regional network.

Aid to victims

A PIONEERING insurance scheme to cover legal costs in medical negligence cases has been developed by the underwriting agency, Litigation Protection, in conjunction with Action for Victims of Medical Accidents.

The scheme provides up to £100,000 of cover to protect against having to pay the legal costs of an opponent when cases are taken on a "no win, no fee" conditional basis. Cases are screened by AVMA's referral panel.

Date set

A DATE has finally been set for the long-awaited inquiry by the Home Affairs Select Committee into Freemasonry in the police and judiciary. Oral evidence will be taken in January and written submissions must be in this year.

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP, caused a stir last year when he demanded the inquiry. Some observers saw the committee's agreement as a sop to Mr Mullin, who didn't see many of his proposals for reforming judicial appointments included in the MP's final report.

Lost to golf

LARGE numbers of City solicitors who would like to be judges are being lost to the "golf course" because of current recruitment procedures. A survey by the Law Society found that 70 per cent of City solicitors would be interested, but only if civil justice reforms proposed by Lord Woolf enabled them to take up more suitable positions, with more flexibility in training requirements.

At present, they have to do up to four years as a part-time recorder, nearly always on criminal work — an area most City lawyers don't work in. Martin Roberts, who compiled the survey, said: "It is a tragedy that the large pool of highly talented specialists likely to be retiring from City practices in their fifties will be heading for the golf course instead of the judge's bench."

SCRIVENOR

Legal horses for courses

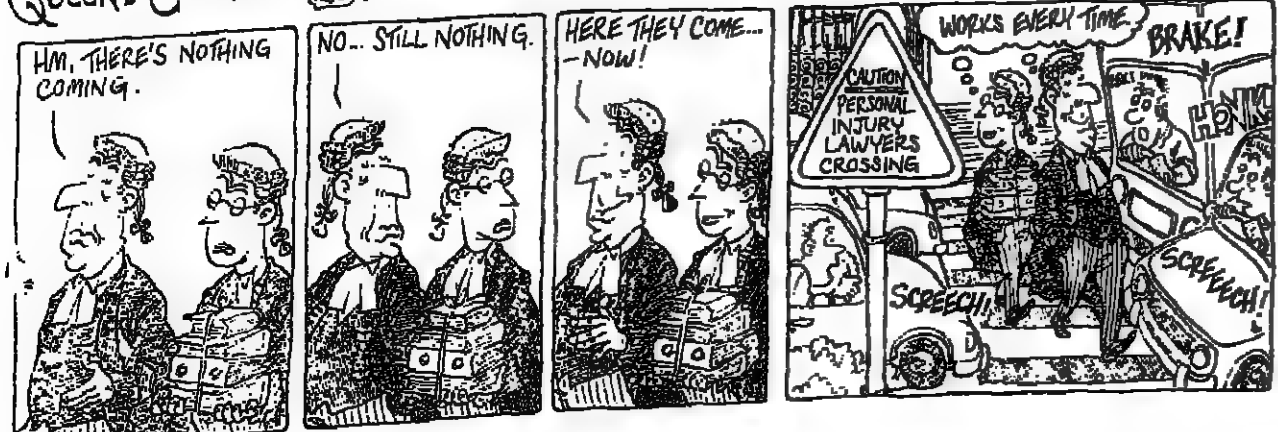
CHRISTOPHER CLARKE, QC, and 16 other members of his set at Brick Court, off Fleet Street, London, are celebrating after spectacular recent successes with their sponsored horses. Legal Democrat and Legal Jaguar. At Wembley they achieved two firsts: Legal Democrat won the Prix St Georges one night and the Intermediaire the next, and finished second in the Intermediaire Kur the night after. Legal Jaguar, who is much younger, came third in the Novice Class at the National Championships three weeks ago. Both horses are trained and ridden by Carl Hester, the British Olympic rider.

This was the only British win in dressage. William Wood, a member of chambers, said: "What was most satisfactory was that Legal Democrat was winning against Dutch and German opposition, which has been beating us in recent years. We are all hoping that with this kind of result, and with proper backing, British riders and horses will be properly competitive at the European championships in Germany next summer and ultimately in Sydney in 2000. If we can set some kind of precedent, and bring other lawyers and professionals into the sport, it will have been worthwhile."



Hester on Legal Democrat

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BHM
SEARCH & SELECTION

Can the law stop stalkers?

Action is easy to promise but may be less easy to achieve. Neil Addison reports on the Government's proposals

A series of high-profile prosecutions has pushed the crime right up the political agenda. Michael Howard has now pledged new laws to tackle the problem.

The Home Secretary told a conference organised by the Suzi Lumplugh Trust last week that he plans two new criminal offences: the use of words or behaviour, on more than one occasion, which would put a victim in fear of violence (to carry up to five years' jail or an unlimited fine or both); or the use of words or behaviour on more than one occasion which would cause the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed (carrying up to six months' jail or a £5,000 fine or both).

In addition, he plans a new civil remedy, when words or behaviour are used more than once that would cause the victim to be harassed, alarmed or distressed. Courts would have power to make restraining orders after conviction of either of the two criminal offences and a breach of the order itself would be a criminal offence.

Action is easy to promise but may be less easy to achieve. The Government has recognised the difficulties of making stalking a specific offence. A broadly drawn offence could catch legitimate journalists, debt collectors or even divorced fathers trying to see their children, while a narrowly drawn offence would make little improvement on the existing law.

Will the offences be so widely cast that they catch the kind of behaviour that does not amount to stalking? In both cases, there must be an intention to cause fear or alarm, or circumstances must be such that a reasonable person would realise that fear or alarm would result.

But there may be borderline cases in which behaviour is distress-



Perry Southall: terrorised for 18 months by a convicted rapist

A peace bond is essentially an injunction ordering the offender not to contact the victim again and prohibiting him or her from going near the house or workplace of the victim. They are orders of the criminal not the civil courts and are governed by the criminal code, not the civil law.

They do not count as a conviction but they are recorded with the police and if the offender breaks the terms of the order, then he or she can be arrested and prosecuted for the specific offence of breaching the criminal courts' order.

We are not short of criminal offences in England and Wales.

Perhaps what we need is not another offence, but a new system, similar to that in Canada, for dealing with persistent objectionable behaviour. Giving magistrates' courts specific power to grant restraining orders (not injunctions) where magistrates are satisfied that police have reasonable fears for someone's safety would be a sensible way of dealing with such situations. Giving magistrates and Crown Courts powers to grant such orders as part of their normal sentencing powers and making breach of such orders a specific arrestable criminal offence would also be sensible.

The author is a barrister in private practice.

Chris Sallon, QC, and Nick Lavender on CPS prosecutors

Nikita Khrushchev once observed that politicians will promise to build bridges even where there is no river. The Government's declared intention to extend rights of audience in the Crown Court to lawyers employed by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is both an empty and dangerous political gesture. The impartiality of the criminal justice system would be at risk and there is no justification for change.

There has been a state prosecution service in England for ten years. The CPS was set up to prepare all prosecutions for trial, and to conduct prosecutions in the magistrates' court. The Government then believed that in the Crown Court, where serious criminal matters are tried before juries, cases should be presented by barristers instructed to represent the prosecution because they brought an objectivity and independence to cases which state employees were unlikely to have.

Nevertheless, the CPS soon started asking for the right to conduct Crown Court prosecutions. It was argued that this would raise the low level of morale within the service, created by chronic underfunding, inadequate levels of staffing and a high rate of attrition in a burgeoning bureaucracy.

While these problems persist, recent changes in the law relating to the disclosure of evidence to the defence make a prosecutor's independence crucial. The Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 is heavily biased towards the prosecution and allows it to decide what material should be disclosed to the defence, with no sanctions if a prosecutor fails to act properly. The trial judge's power to supervise the disclosure has all but been removed. This diluted duty of disclosure is bound to give rise to a conflict of interest, since the performance of CPS employees is subject to annual appraisal and their career prospects depend at least in part on their "success rate". This was

If justice is not seen to be fair



Barbara Mills, QC: change

certainly the view of the Council of Circuit Judges which concluded: "We do not see how an employed advocate can avoid being placed in the position at some time of having to consider whether his future employment would be imperilled by full disclosure."

Many feel that the CPS would do better to concentrate on the job it was set up to do. Research conducted for the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice found that in 1993 more than 8,000 cases taken to the Crown Court were dismissed by the judge in circumstances where the dismissal was "certainly or possibly foreseeable". Even the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct has expressed concern about the

performance of the CPS. It has advised no fewer than three times against allowing CPS employees to appear in the Crown Court.

Barbara Mills, QC, the Director of Public Prosecutions, has consistently pressed for change, promising that CPS advocates will be used according to the criteria of cost, efficiency and experience. But as Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Labour's Shadow Lord Chancellor, pointed out at last month's Bar Conference, no analysis comparing the cost of in-house lawyers with that of independent advocates has been undertaken. As for efficiency and experience, it might be wiser to await the results of a survey by the National Audit Office on the performance of the CPS, due to come before Parliament next year.

Meanwhile, the position in the CPS goes from bad to worse. Earlier this year all CPS lawyers were offered voluntary redundancy. This has resulted in a further reduction of staff levels, already perilously low. In May a motion passed by the CPS section of the Association of First Division Civil Servants expressed the view that it could no longer properly serve the interests of justice because of the way the CPS is being run. It has also commissioned a MORI poll intended to look at, among other things, morale within the service. This has been opposed by the DPP who feels it would be unrepresentative and undermine a poll of her own. This has led to a formal complaint by the director of MORI to Sir Robin Butler, Head of the Home Civil Service.

The final decision — believed to be imminent — rests with five senior judges: the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls, the Vice-Chancellor and the President of the Family Division. One hopes they will not approve a proposal which could have profound and adverse consequences for the independence of our criminal justice system.

● The authors are practising barristers.

Fresh vistas for paralegals

A LEADING law firm has opened up a career structure for paralegals which will scrap the dead-end job of "managing clerk". Frances Gibb writes.

Davies Arnold Cooper has developed a scheme to allow legal executives the chance to be involved as partners, even though they are not qualified as solicitors. Where the work of a legal executive is rated to be that which would earn a qualified solicitor partner-

ship status, then they will be remunerated at a higher level and take part in partners' meetings.

The scheme creates a structured career path for non-solicitors starting with trainee legal executive, progressing through legal executive and senior legal executive to associate and senior associate.

Law Society rules prohibit non-solicitors being in partnership with solicitors. But this should not be used as an "excuse for artificial-

ly restraining those capable of markedly adding value to our practice". David McIntosh, senior partner, says.

One of the traditional routes to becoming a solicitor used to be through being an articled clerk and qualifying later on — a career path followed by a number of solicitors at Davies Arnold Cooper. About 25 legal executives or trainee executives have already been integrated on to the new career path.

SENIOR APPOINTMENTS

We are currently witnessing a substantial increase in senior level appointments, by which we mean from five years qualified up to partner level. The demand for senior assistants and partners is particularly acute in the areas of corporate finance, capital markets, asset finance, commercial property and corporate tax.

The firms who are looking to recruit at this level include many of the top twenty firms, a substantial number of US legal practices and the London offices of the major provincial firms. The rewards and prospects on offer are substantial, for example, a US practice based in London will pay £120,000 for four year qualified corporate finance lawyers from a top five City practice and a leading provincial practice with a London office will offer immediate partnership to a banking lawyer from a top ten City firm who can

demonstrate a general banking background. It is important to emphasise that firms do not require a client following which is a substantial change from twelve months ago.

1996/1997 offers a window of opportunity to senior assistants or partners who wish to secure a significant career change.

Four examples of our senior appointments are advertised opposite but further vacancies can be obtained by visiting our Web Site www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence and handled by our consultants, who are all qualified lawyers.

LONDON: Contact Alison Barrett, Helen Wynn-Jones, Dominique W. Pengelly (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for further information in complete confidence. Evenings/weekends 0171 386 8699. Confidential fax: 0171 417 1444. www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

TOP JOBS

IN-HOUSE IP To £Excellent
Look no further for the reason you qualified as a property lawyer. When possibly the country's best property firm comes knocking, you know you made the right move and the opportunity offered to a newly qualified at this firm could lead all the way to the top. It is that good. Ref: T31180

PENSIONS To £48,000
Make provision for your old age, pensions lawyers with 2-4 years' ppe, by joining this top 10 City law firm. Not only will it make your reputation, standard of clients and pay shoot upwards, but it will also give you the chance to develop stand-alone work, as well as corporate support. Ref: T25008

PUBLIC SECTOR PROPERTY To £Market Rate
Enjoy public service from within one of London's biggest and best firms if you have 2-6 years' ppe. You need not have had experience of public sector work, but an understanding of public law is essential. Work will also include local government and housing elements. Top partnership prospects. Ref: T30199

CAPITAL MARKETS To £65,000
A capital job is offered in capital markets at one of the City's top firms. Top 15 City firm with excellent banking reputation needs a capital markets lawyer with 4-5 years' ppe. It will give you the chance to develop in the innovative field of structured finance with few repetitive transactions. Ref: T19803

CORPORATE To £65,000
If you want to be a top corporate lawyer, then you have to join a top corporate firm. And it just so happens that this top 10 City firm is on the look out for quality corporate lawyers with 1-6 years' ppe for a job that offers top work, top pay and a great chance to progress. Ref: T11913

IN-HOUSE BANKING To £Premium
The amazing opportunity that is in-house is more than simply demonstrated by this job at a major international investment bank. The pay, conditions and work on offer are exceptional. A French-fluent lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe and ISA and experience of derivatives would help. Ref: T25469

SHIPPING Paris To £Exceptional
Oo la la. Get an Eiffel of this job at the Paris office of one of the City's very best shipping firms. The work is mainly shipping and international carriage of goods, with some general litigation. A French-fluent lawyer with 1-3 years' ppe must also want to regularly take full advantage. Ref: T29833

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY To £29,000
Look no further for the reason you qualified as a property lawyer. When possibly the country's best property firm comes knocking, you know you made the right move and the opportunity offered to a newly qualified at this firm could lead all the way to the top. It is that good. Ref: T31180

COMMERCIAL/INSURANCE Ireland To £Excellent
Join one of the most important departments of one of the City's biggest firms and become the lawyer you've always wanted to be. It needs 3 property lawyers with 2-4 years' ppe: one for general work and two for work with a property finance bias; and the other for PFI/urban regeneration work. Ref: T31098

EC/COMPETITION To £100,000
Such is the amount of work flooding into the EC department of this top City firm that it needs several lawyers to help keep its head above water. If you are at partner level (no following needed) or have 3-5 or 0-1 years' ppe, this is your chance to join one of the best EC practices around. Ref: T24968

EMPLOYMENT To £55,000
Do you think being an employment lawyer is the same in every firm? Not at all. The largest City firms it's not, where you will work for some of the country's best known companies. Employment lawyers with 2-5 years' ppe and experience of multi-jurisdictional work would be ideal. Ref: T117091

PROJECTS Singapore To £Market Rate
Our Client, a top 10 City firm, is looking to recruit a transactional projects lawyer for its Singapore office. With at least 3 years' ppe, and particular expertise in construction work, you will join a busy team assisting multi-nationals and financial institutions on a wide range of transactions. Ref: T31835

CORPORATE TAX To £80,000
Over-qualified in your current job? Feel that you are working hard but getting nowhere? If so, this top City firm could be just the thing to further your career. It will push a corporate tax lawyer with 3-5 years' ppe, as well as lawyers at partner and associate level, over the success threshold. Ref: T25270

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Stephen Rodney, Emma Cowell or Adrian Fox (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6662 (0171-354 3079 or 0171-427 3674 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougal Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 6JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. E-mail: stephen.rodney@quarrydougal.co.uk



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CHAMBERS

Status or Experience?
One of our candidates, three years qualified and specialising in IT work with a little known firm in the Midlands, was offered a position with a substantial City firm that would give him exactly the sort of work he wanted. The job was ideal, and yet he hesitated. Why? He was reluctant to give up his partnership status. He'd already been appointed salaried partner at his present firm, and would have to join the new firm as an assistant solicitor. It meant a lot to him, naturally, to be a partner, and even the chance to handle better quality work with a more respected firm was not enough to compensate for the loss of status. To us it seemed obvious that the move would be to his advantage. He joined the new firm and is now a partner. We put these thoughts to him, stressing the simple point that the only true security in any profession comes from developing your experience in a particular area and building a reputation on it. Status must reflect genuine expertise, otherwise it risks being short-lived - the proverbial house built on sand.

In the end, he decided to join the new firm. If there was to be any loss of status he reckoned it would only be temporary and that a partnership in the new firm would be worth more than the one in the old.

Michael Chambers

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INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

Hi-tech: South East
Recently qualified Solicitor to join small legal dept of rapidly growing international hi-tech company. You will assist with joint ventures, sales and acquisitions, EU and environmental issues. Ideal as a first move into industry.

Engineering: South East
Solicitor or Barrister with 3-4 yrs commercial exp to join legal dept of international engineering co. Work will include contract negotiations, project finance and consortium agreements. Must have commercial acumen.

Banking: City
Solicitor with 1-2 yrs ppe to join small legal dept of international bank. Must have sound exp of company law, ISDA and general banking documentation. Exp of FSA and taxation would be an advantage.

Litigation: London
Solicitor with at least 10 yrs experience to join legal dept of financial organisation. Work will include a wide range of contractual disputes often with an international flavour. Position will initially be offered on a short term basis.

Corporate Lawyer: London
Solicitor or Barrister with c. 10 yrs corporate experience to join legal dept of well-known PLC. Senior position requiring M&A, JVs and investment business experience on an international scale. Some travel.

Commercial: South East
Solicitor or Barrister with approx 1 yrs ppe to join legal dept of well-known hi-tech co. You will advise on corporate and commercial matters and will be encouraged to assist in the development of the company's business.

PRIVATE PRACTICE London: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson
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Partnership Positions
We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Corporate: City
We have been inundated with vacancies with well known, top quality, mid-sized firms aware that life exists outside the office. 1-6 yr qual solicitors sought.

Commercial Litigation: Hong Kong
Large and firm with prestigious HK office seeks high calibre City trained litigator with 3-6 yrs exp to join their comm lit dept. Work is varied and demanding.

Senior Corporate Tax: City
Medium-sized firm offers 5-8 year qual solicitor excellent partnership prospects in dept set for considerable expansion. Corporation tax, VAT, Stamp Duty, etc.

Construction Litigation: City
Large national firm seeks 2-5 yr qualified construction lawyer to handle a range of primarily contentious work on behalf of an impressive range of clients.

Banking Partner Designate: City
Fast-growing second tier banking practice seeks senior solicitor (6 yrs plus ppe) for broad caseload including loans and security, project, trade and media finance, etc.

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Large City firm seeks 1-4 yr qual litigator to join general insurance lit team based at their Lloyd's office. Work incl's prof neg, property damage & subrogation claims.

Corporate Tax: North and Midlands
Excellent opportunities now offered to corporate tax lawyers from newly qualified to senior levels.

Employment Lawyers: Leeds
Leading firm with one of the strongest employment law depts in the country now seeks a 4-6 yr qual solicitor.

Commercial Property: Kent
4-5 years' ppe with exp of general comm property including site acquisitions, plot sales and leases.

Commercial Litigation: Dorset
Busy, innovative firm with PIs as clients seek an comm litigator with qual exp. Partnership prospects.

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- Asset and Project Finance
- International Joint Ventures
- Collective Investment Schemes
- Property Development and Investment Transactions

Our Human Resources Department advises on all aspects of employee benefits, pensions and employment law and is looking for an employee benefits lawyer with four to six years' experience to advise on:

- Share Incentive Schemes
- Bonus Arrangements
- Schedule E and National Insurance
- Long Term Incentive Plans
- Profit Related Pay
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As a result of the firm's current exponential growth of work, at least six additional banking and structured finance lawyers are sought with experience in one or more of the following areas: securitisation, structured, project or asset finance and cross-border banking generally. In addition there is a requirement for a property finance lawyer.

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Four lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in London, two with 2-4 years' ppe and two with 4-8 years' ppe.

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Two lawyers to join the banking and structured finance group in Singapore, one with 2-4 and the other with 4-8 years' ppe, and qualified in either the UK, US, Australasia, Ireland, S. Africa or Canada.

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Global organisation requires a 0-2 years' ppe intellectual-property lawyer with fluent German. Dynamic and enjoyable working environment. Ref: 32522 - Nicholas Woolf

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International software group seeks a contracts manager with up to 6 years' experience. Must be keen to work directly with clients. Ref: 33340 - Nicholas Woolf

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Commercial Lawyer - Germany
Leading US multinational seeks international lawyer with 2-5 years' ppe in company law for autonomous role. Fluent German essential. Ref: 33130 - Gill Newman

Commercial Lawyer
Confident and outgoing lawyer with c.2 years' company experience, ideally including IP/IT law, required by global IT company for European role. Ref: 33130 - Gill Newman

Entertainment
Internationally-renowned organisation seeks commercial lawyer with 4-6 years' ppe in film/TV distribution for role with responsibility for Europe. Ref: 33218 - Gill Newman



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Oracle now requires an additional Legal Counsel to join the legal team responsible for East Central Europe and Middle East Africa operations.

The Legal Counsel's duties will include all day to day legal issues arising primarily in Eastern Europe, but will also be required to cover for additional regions. The work will involve drafting and negotiating licensing, services and training

contracts, dealing with corporate and employment issues, reviewing legal issues in tender documents, and implementing and developing company business policies and practices.

Candidates should have two to six years' commercial experience and be qualified in the UK, US or Eastern Europe. Ideally, they will also have experience in intellectual property, information technology and corporate law. They must be fluent in English; knowledge of an Eastern European language is highly desirable. They must have the flexibility to be part of a constantly changing environment, be proactive and a team player. Above all, they must be commercially aware.

The position is likely to be based either in Switzerland or Eastern Europe and will require extensive travel. A generous remuneration package will be offered.

For further details, please contact Sonya Rayner (who is handling this assignment exclusively) at Chambers & Partners (Professional Recruitment) 74 Long Lane, London EC1A 9EL; tel: 0171 606 9371, fax: 0171 600 1793, or send her a copy of your CV.

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6 month contract for a 3-6 years' qualified solicitor to work in a small team for this medium-sized law firm. Candidates will be handling high profile patent claims, licenses and distribution agreements. To start immediately. Ref: 30009

COMPANY/BANKING

International bank based in the City seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 2-6 years' ppe to act as number 2 lawyer in a small legal department. Candidates must have practical knowledge of company law, contract law, ISDA documentation and banking documentation. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 17210

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Solicitor with 3-6 years' ppe sought by insurance company. Candidates should have a strong company/commercial background and will be assisting the head of legal with a heavy workload in relation to high profile matters. Contract will be for 3-6 months and is to start immediately. Ref: 38154

PLANNING - PART-TIME

Borough Council based in the Home Counties requires a solicitor/barrister with 5 years' plus experience in planning and commercial contracts. The work is predominantly non-contentious planning including section 106 agreements. Immediate start, 3 days a week for 5 months. Ref: 31189

CORPORATE

1-4 years' qualified solicitor sought by leading City law firm for a contract which may last up to a year. Candidates must have strong academics and a City firm background. Range of work will be extremely diverse covering takeover bids and defences, acquisitions, disposals, mergers and joint ventures. Ref: 29808

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Medium-sized commercial firm seeks 3 solicitors to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates must have a minimum of 2 years' experience and will be assisting on a major transaction. Contract will initially be for about 2 months. Ref: 29808

SENIOR BANKING

5-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join West London office of finance house. Work covered will range from commercial contracts, banking documentation, managing external solicitors, to giving on the spot customer advice. Contract to start mid-October for 4-5 months. Ref: 31131

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IT company based in Home Counties requires solicitor/barrister to join their extremely busy legal team as soon as possible. Candidates must have 2-6 years' experience of in-house commercial work with a strong emphasis on IT contracts, as well as a robust personality. Ref: 30180

COMMERCIAL/EC

Well established commercial firm seeks a 2-4 year qualified solicitor for their commercial department. Candidates must have good negotiating and drafting skills on the commercial side with strong EC exposure. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 29654

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4EJ. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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Ref: V1770

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Home truths that can save the lost souls of football

ONCE upon a time, a society was judged by the way it reared its children. Now we focus on those grown-ups wearing short pants who, in the glare of the spotlight, turn from role models into problem children.

When Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the Professional Footballers' Association, called yesterday for counselling as a matter of course, and not merely for fallen idols such as Paul Gascoigne and Paul Merson, his remedy followed almost word-for-word that of Carlos Saul Menem, the President of Argentina, when his country first wrestled with the drug-taking of Diego Maradona.

Ironically, Maradona, his jailed agent and others have recently brought their problems back to Menem's door. But the link, and the perceived cure that lies in psychiatric therapy, is the same in England, in Latin America, and wherever footballers are projected onto posters that fill the bedroom, is-sells of the next generation of youngsters.

It is important that we look at the lives of players away from football and try to make sure they do not take on too much, and can cope with things. Taylor said yesterday: "It is quite apparent because of the high profile of the game and the pressures on players, that it is important for football management, football clubs and football as a whole, to have counselling programmes."

Taylor is sincere in this and honest in his admission that neither he, nor anyone in football, has the training to deal with the personal problems (one might add the personality problems) of the modern so-called superstar.

One thing is evident: nothing same will penetrate the game unless the presidents, the chairmen, the rulers are themselves subjected to corrective measures.

Take Italy on a normal, i.e. manic day. Yesterday Cagliari sacked Gregorio Perez, their coach, because, a couple of months after being hired, he had failed to turn a mediocre club into a giant of Serie A. Cagliari were beaten on Sunday, 2-1, away to Lazio, and the president, Massimo Cellino, explained, he considered rationally, that he could not keep a coach whose team were

ROB HUGHES



Overseas Football

beaten by an opposition reduced to ten men for most of the match. A session on the couch might have told the president the old one about ten men often proving more stubborn than 11.

Also in Italy, Giovanni Galeone, the Perugia coach, under pressure from the club's owner, Luciano Gaucci, ended up in a cardiac ward. He left hospital after tests, was told to give up smoking and was relieved when his team won 2-1 at Parma. By then Gaucci was his friend: "Earlier, I got cross when we didn't pick up points," Gaucci said. "Now I don't see any reason to be angry." Perugia, newly promoted, are four points behind the leaders, Juventus. "I'm not fooling myself. I'm waiting to see how we do in our next match."

Pressure, pressure, pressure. That, Menem reasoned, was the factor that crippled the stardom of Maradona, the



Taylor: remedy

player whose rise from the southern Buenos Aires shanty of Florida symbolised Argentina more than anything since the ascent of Eva Peron. The President, personally instructing the country's leading therapists to help to restore Maradona at the beginning of this decade, acknowledged that children, this time literally, were pitched straight into the mania of international sporting acclaim without preparation and adequate schooling.

Menem believed in the Greek philosophy of sport "making men wiser and more cautious". Victor Lupu, secretary-general of Argentina's National Sports Council, was, however, instructed by him to ensure that boys did not give up school at 13, as Maradona had done, and so the children's programmes, called Children's Evita Sports, were born.

In Amsterdam, Ajax try to maintain the proper education, for classroom and for life, of boys being groomed for acclaim. Ajax are tremendously successful, yet Patrick Kluyvert, a European Cup winner in his teens who was the driver of a car involved in an accident in which another motorist was killed, is struggling, physically and mentally, to return to his former, carefree and gifted state.

Clearly, Taylor, like Menem six years ago, is trying to grapple with a problem created by ignorance, but not created in the households of Gascoigne or Merson alone. Their attempted transition from council house to counselling room is a tale of our times. "They are asked to play like boys, in an environment that is harsh, sometimes corrupt, and obviously disorientating," Dr Nelida Khaled, a clinical psychologist in Buenos Aires at the time Menem called for counselling, said. "Maradona came from the poorest sector of our society, he came to be despised for his riches. He was cut off from the earth, the habits of home, and the family. When all three are lost, you hallucinate, and it is not only drugs that can do this." Her solution? The doctor said that only the family, probably the mother, could give the counselling and reorientate a lost soul such as Maradona. Go home Gazzo.

Victorious Sutton can set sights on higher attainment

David Powell relates a tall story of monotonous training bringing kudos to a working woman

Nobody can say that the odds were in Marian Sutton's favour — where she lives, her lifestyle, her height, Joan Benoit-Samuelson, the first women's Olympic marathon champion, commenting on television on the Chicago Marathon on Sunday, was struck by one perceived disadvantage. "She does not look like a marathon runner, she is very tall," Benoit-Samuelson said — but people used to say that Michael Johnson did not look like a sprinter.

Sutton, at 4ft 10in, may never enjoy the full benefit of shielding from the elements behind a group, but she has never considered her build a drawback. Never. "Only when people say things like Joan Benoit said does it enter my mind that maybe there is something in it," she said.

"Everybody thinks that tall people cannot be distance runners for some reason. I never suspected I would not be a good runner because of my height."

Benoit-Samuelson's observation came when Sutton seemed to have no chance of winning, when Kristy Johnston led by half a minute in the 24th mile. Sutton came past a mile from home to win in 2hr 30min 45sec, only the second British woman this decade, after Liz McColgan, to win a big-city marathon.

Sutton is not a big-city woman. She lives in Looe, Cornwall, remote from training partners and where limited street lighting forces her to run repetitive loops on winter nights. Unassuming, with a cheery disposition, she is richer by £43,000 (about £28,000) from prize-money and bonuses, but still she planned to take the bus home from Heathrow — "single to Liskeard, please, and where can I put the Chicago Marathon trophy?"



A triumphant Sutton crosses the line to claim victory in the Chicago Marathon

said, "I would say 90 per cent of the athletes at this level do not work."

Sutton has a right to expect good offers for next year from London and Chicago, so she could afford to go full-time, but she is not sure that she wants to. She is not even sure that she wants to run in London. She is reluctant to give up work because she would find the exclusive commitment to running suffocating. On the other hand, it would enhance her prospects of breaking 2hr 30min.

The dilemma is one of two she faces. The other is whether, in 1997, to run London or

the world championships in Athens. "I would not do both," she said. It might sound spiteful that she relishes saying "up yours" to the British Athletic Federation by declining selection for Athens, having been omitted from the Olympic team; however, coming from one normally so affable, it merely underlined the hurt.

"The Olympics is everything to an athlete," she said. "I was very upset with the British selectors over Atlanta. I felt unjustifiably left out. Sutton, now 33, was 17 when she ran her first marathon. "I remember going back to

school the next day, to a cookery lesson, and I could not bend down to get the pots out of the cupboard," she said. So tall marathon runners do suffer disadvantages. Paul Evans, the Chicago men's champion, has had his time corrected from 2hr 08min 15sec to 2hr 08min 52sec. Only the third Briton, behind Steve Jones and Charlie Spedding, to break 2hr 09min after his five-mile solo burst of 24min 14sec to the 24-mile mark. Evans could be the answer to the London Marathon's need for a home men's champion after three years without one.

CRICKET Houghton helps Zimbabwe to safety

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE first Test between Pakistan and Zimbabwe, ended in a draw yesterday after Zimbabwe, who conceded a 178-run lead in the first innings, reached 241 for seven in the second innings when stumps were drawn with eight overs remaining.

Zimbabwe were in trouble when they resumed yesterday at 38 for one. Alistair Campbell being given out by Khizar Hayat, the Pakistani umpire, leg-before to Waqar Younis when Waqar did not appeal — but David Houghton and Grant Flower took the score to 124 before Flower was caught by Shahid Kabir off Saqlain Mushtaq for 40.

Andy Flower and Houghton had added 35 when Houghton was bowled by Saqlain for 63 and Zimbabwe's resistance appeared to be crumbling as Craig Wishart, who was bowled by Shahid Nazir, lasted only 26 balls.

At the close, Paul Strang, who became the first Zimbabwean to score a century — in the first innings — and take five wickets in a Test match, was 13 not out.

The second and final Test is due to start at Faisalabad on Thursday.

ZIMBABWE: First Innings 375 (G W Flower 110, P A Strang 106 not out, Shahid Nazir 5 for 50).

Second Innings

M H Daker & Wasim b Saqlain	13
G W Flower & Shahid b Saqlain	16
A D Campbell & b Waqar	15
D L Houghton & b Saqlain	63
C B Wishart & b Shahid	26
C B Wishart & b Saqlain	10
G J Whittall & b Saqlain	32
P A Strang not out	13
A R Whittall not out	0
Bones (0 11, 10, 10, 10)	20
Total (7 wickets)	241

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-15, 2-40, 3-124, 4-159, 5-177, 6-221, 7-241.

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 20-3-60-1, Shahid Nazir 19-4-65-2, Saqlain Mushtaq 40-16-110-4, Wasim Akram 5-0-10-0, Aftab Ghani 11-6-12-0, Saqlain Mushtaq 13-5-12-0.

PAKISTAN: First Innings 663 (Wasim Akram 287 not out, Saqlain Mushtaq 75, Saqlain Mushtaq 52, Saqlain Mushtaq 51, P A Strang 5-7-10).

Men of the match: Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis, Aftab Ghani (South Africa) and Khizar Hayat (Pakistan).

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS	
CHICAGO MARATHON: Men: 1. P. Evans 2hr 29min 52sec; 2. J. Sutton 2hr 30min 45sec; 3. L. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 4. E. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 5. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 6. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 7. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 8. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 9. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 10. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec.	
TORONTO MARATHON: Men: P. Mousa 2hr 29min 52sec; 2. J. Sutton 2hr 30min 45sec; 3. L. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 4. E. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 5. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 6. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 7. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 8. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 9. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec; 10. G. Johnston 2hr 31min 12sec.	
SEDERBERG, Cumbria: Fat Runners Association relays. Men: 1. S. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 2. B. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 3. P. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 4. B. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 5. P. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 6. B. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 7. P. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 8. B. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 9. P. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec; 10. B. Bortolotti 4hr 18min 57sec.	
BASEBALL	
WORLD SERIES: Atlanta 12 New York 1. Atlanta lead best-of-seven series 1-0.	
BASKETBALL	
BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Worcester 96 Derby 115. Sheffield 95 Derby 74.	
CYCLING	
HILL CLIMBS: Chesterfield Spire RC. Riders: 1. J. W. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 2. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 3. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 4. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 5. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 6. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 7. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 8. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 9. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec; 10. J. C. Moore 1hr 16min 15sec.	
FOOTBALL	
Italy's late results	
ITALY LEAGUE: Juventus 2 Internazionale 0. SPANISH LEAGUE: Valencia 3 Atletico Madrid 0. GERMAN LEAGUE: Bayern Munich 0 Borussia Dortmund 0. DUTCH LEAGUE: PSV Eindhoven 7 Feyenoord 2. FRENCH LEAGUE: Paris Saint-Germain 1 Lorient 0. BRAZILIAN LEAGUE: Santos 1 Flamengo 2. Portuguese League: Sporting CP 1 Benfica 0. ALGERIAN LEAGUE: USM Alger 1 CA Bordj 0. ARGENTINEAN LEAGUE: Huracan 1 Independiente 1. ESTONIAN LEAGUE: 1. Estudiantes 1. San	
POOL FORECAST	
Saturday October 26	
CAPOIN NO LUTER (forecast)	
FA PREMIERSHIP	
1 Arsenal v Leeds	1
2 Chelsea v Tottenham	2
3 Coventry v Sheffield	3
4 Leicester v Newcastle	4
5 Middlesbrough v West Ham	5
6 Southampton v Millwall	6
7 Sunderland v Villa	7
8 Walsley v Blackpool	8
FIRST DIVISION	
9 Barnham v Norwich	9
10 Charlton v Oxford	10
11 Palace v Gillingham	11
12 Millwall v Watford	12
13 Ipswich v Tranmere	13
14 Oxford v Southampton	14
15 Reading v Swindon	15
16 Shrewsbury v QPR	16
17 Stoke v Portsmouth	17
18 West Brom v Bradford	18
SECOND DIVISION	
19 Blackpool v Watford	19
20 Brentford v Millwall	20
21 Bristol City v Notts	21
22 Burnley v Plymouth	22
23 Bury v Bolton	23
24 Charlton v York	24
25 Gillingham v Preston	25
26 Luton v Bournemouth	26
27 Rotherham v Peterborough	27
28 Shrewsbury v QPR	28
29 Walsley v Blackpool	29
30 Walsley v Blackpool	30
THIRD DIVISION	
31 Bury v Bolton	31
32 Brighton v Fulham	32
33 Charlton v York	33
34 Chester v Hereford	34
35 Exeter v Hartlepool	35
36 Lincoln v Colchester	36
37 Northampton v Doncaster	37
38 Scarbrough v Macclesfield	38
39 Scarbrough v Macclesfield	39
SCOTTISH PREMIER	
40 Aberdeen v Celtic	40
41 Dundee Utd v Hearts	41
42 Dundee Utd v Hearts	42
43 Dundee Utd v Hearts	43
44 Rangers v Motherwell	44
SCOTTISH FIRST	
45 Morton v Dundee	45
46 Partick v Falkirk	46
47 Partick v Falkirk	47
48 Partick v Falkirk	48
49 Partick v Falkirk	49
SCOTTISH SECOND	
50 Partick v Falkirk	50
51 Partick v Falkirk	51
52 Partick v Falkirk	52
53 Partick v Falkirk	53
54 Partick v Falkirk	54

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

This hand, reported by Barry Rigal at the European Youth Championships, is on the theme of communication. Declarer wants to draw trumps before the defence get a ruff.

Dealer North		North-South vul	
♠	♥	♠	♥
K 8 2	A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	K 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	K 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3	A 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3
K 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2	K 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	Q 7 6 5 4 3 2

Contract: Two Spades by South. Lead: king of hearts

North opened Two Spades and South responded Two Spades. On their methods that was not a strong bid, so North passed and that became the final contract.

Left to his own devices declarer is quite comfortable in Two Spades. He makes five spade tricks, one heart and in the fullness of time two diamond tricks. To prevail the defence have to get a diamond ruff before declarer draws trumps.

Declarer correctly won the first heart (else the defence get on to diamonds immediately). East played the jack. Declarer continued with a spade to the queen and king. Now West (the Hungarian, Tamas Szalka) found the only card to beat the contract — the six of diamonds. Declarer finessed the queen, East took the king and co-operated nobly by refusing to cash the ten of hearts. He returned a diamond and declarer remained locked in

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Karpov suffering

Anatoly Karpov is suffering one of the worst results of his life. The problem appears to be that his opening repertoire as Black, normally solid, though somewhat limited in scope, was tested to the maximum by his extended Fide championship match against Gata Kamsky earlier this year. Karpov's opponents, therefore, have been granted unprecedented material and access to the chinks in the champion's defensive armour. The game today was Karpov's second loss from Tilburg. White's strategic performance was impressive, culminating in the beautiful sacrifice 32 Ng5 when 32...Bg5 is met 33 Kc5.

White: Loek van Wely
Black: Anatoly Karpov
Tilburg, October 1996

Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4	Nf6
2 c4	e6
3 Nf3	Bb6
4 g3	Bb7
5 Bg2	Bd7
6 Bc2	a5
7 d5	0-0
8 0-0	0-0
9 Nc3	Nd7
10 Bb3	Bc4
11 Re1	Bc4
12 Bc3	Be4
13 Qc2	Qc8
14 Bf1	Rd8
15 Rd2	a4
16 Bb3	a3
17 Nd2	Bb7
18 axb3	Bb7
19 d5	a5
20 e4	Nf8
21 f4	Nb7
22 Nf3	Rd8
23 Rf1	Rd8
24 Qc2	Qc7
25 Ra1	Rc1
26 Ra1	Kf7
27 Nf4	Rd8
28 Rf1	Bc8

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

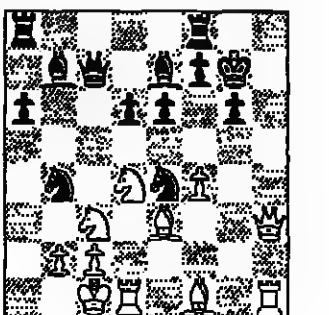
By Philip Howard

- HECKLESTER
- A heckler
 - A horse's collar
 - A dresser of flax
- JUICE
- A doom
 - A Jewess
 - A fruit cordial
- IMPASTO
- A green spinach pasta
 - A score at real tennis
 - Laying it on thick
- HESPERORNIS
- A dead bird
 - Evening nest-seeking
 - Yesterday morning

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Sitru — Saltaev. Erevan Olympiad 1996. Although a couple of pawns down, the open h-file gives White a tremendous attack. However, he needs an accurate sequence to finish off the game. How did he continue?



Solution on page 50

Golf's latest sensation has potential to become sporting superstar

Woods seals his claim to world class

As one of golf's young stars bade farewell to Wentworth, an even younger and potentially greater luminary claimed his second tournament victory in three weeks in the United States. Ernie Els, 27, may have won his third consecutive World Match Play Championship in Surrey on Sunday, but in Florida, Tiger Woods, 20, captured the Walt Disney World Classic to give further credence to the view that he has the potential to conquer the world.

In the past two months Woods has gone from being a phenomenon in golf to a phenomenon in sport. In August Woods captured his third successive US Amateur title, something that no one had done before him. Then, to a fanfare of trumpets, he turned professional, joining Nick Faldo and Colin Montgomerie, among others, in the International Management Group's (IMG) stable of players.

Immediately he signed contracts with Nike, the sports goods manufacturer, and Titleist, the golf equipment manufacturer, that some sources said were worth \$40 million (about £26 million) and others suggested were nearer \$60 million over five years. "Tiger Woods has to be looked at well beyond golf," Wally Uihlein, president of

JOHN HOPKINS



Golf Correspondent

Titleist, said. "He is a potential sporting megastar, like Michael Jordan."

Such a huge investment in one who had not yet hit a ball as a professional was quite something but that was only the half of it. There were some siren voices wondering whether Woods could possibly live up to it all. "No one gets that kind of money without incentive clauses — top five in the money-list, a major championship in five years, those sorts of things," Frank Williams, Greg Norman's manager, said. "That \$40 million figure is pure IMG hype."

Other questions centred on Woods's health. Would it hold up? He has been dogged by

back, wrist and leg ailments in the past two years. Could he cope with being the first young, non-white American in a predominantly white Anglo-Saxon Protestant sport? And for all that his golf was occasionally magnificent, at other times it was naive. There were a lot of questions being asked on the August day when Woods turned professional.

Woods has answered most of them since then, making his name arguably the best-known in the game. Now that he stands 23rd on the United States money-list, his play is beginning to match up to its advance billing. On this form he is certain to play in the Ryder Cup in Spain next year and seems destined to become the biggest thing ever seen in golf, bigger than Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus. In his seven tournaments as a professional Woods has finished sixth, eleventh, fifth, third, first, third and now first again. In the 27 rounds he has played he is 95 under par and since he turned pro he has earned \$734,794 (about £475,000).

Some might be surprised by the way his play has improved in leaps and bounds, but not Woods himself. "What you don't understand about me," he said after his victory on Sunday, "is that when I was playing before, I was a teenager. I was in high school and I was in college. I had term papers and exams and at the same time I was trying to play in the majors, the toughest tournaments in the world. I was never able to get into a rhythm to play. I can now. Now I have a good rhythm."

But he has done more than just play golf brilliantly. In addition, he has confronted the racial issue in an unprecedentedly hard-hitting series of television advertisements that make him appealing to non-whites throughout the United States. "There are still golf courses in the US that I cannot play because of the colour of my skin," Woods said in the advertisements.

Whereas few leading golfers want to talk publicly about race in golf, Woods will not be stopped from doing so. He likes the Nike campaign "because it tells the truth. Let's not shy away from the issue any more," Woods said. "It's a fact of reality and unfortunately I've had to experience that growing up and I still do. Let's talk about it. Let's get it out in the open. Golf has been a sport where a lot of people have been denied the privilege of just playing and it's nice to be able to get that out into the open. I have been kicked off courses because of my skin colour. I've had death threats, hate mail, the usual stuff."

Woods in short, has the world of golf at his feet. Even his rivals are complimentary about him. "Tiger is the greatest thing that has happened to this Tour in a long time," Payne Stewart, who finished second to Woods on Sunday, said. "He has brought incredible attention to golf at a time of year when [American] football and the World Series always took precedence. Everything I've heard about him seems to be true."



Woods tracks his ball on the way to winning the Walt Disney World Classic

Charles Russell counted in

BY MICHAEL WEBB

THE Western Home Counties decide in *The Times* Mees-Person Corporate Golf Challenge produced the closest regional final finish in the history of the competition yesterday, when five teams tied for the top place at Stoke Poges. It took a countback of the last six holes to determine the winners — and even then they won by only one point.

The event was won by Charles Russell, a client of solicitors with offices in the City, Guildford and Cheltenham, who, along with four other teams, tied on 85 strokes.

Three were eliminated on a countback of the back nine, which left Charles Russell and Pro-Sport International still in contention with scores of 46 points. It was only after further refinement to a countback of the last six that Charles Russell claimed the spoils of a trip to the national final in the Spanish sunshine in La Manga in November: their score of 32 points was better by only one.

Charles Russell owed their



victory to a couple of brilliant played holes on the ultimately all-important last six. They started on the 10th, and made their first incisive move on the par-five 13th, where they scored seven points.

Ray Sewell, a client of the firm, hit a good drive and then left a five-wood short and left of the green. A chip to five feet and a single putt gave him a net eagle and four points. He was followed in by Julia Henderson, also a Charles Russell client, who hit a three-wood and five-wood, missed the green with her pitch then chipped to two feet and made the putt for a net birdie and three.

That put them handsomely in credit, but their performance two holes later was

even better. On the par-four 15th Roger Pierce hit a poor drive, then struck a seven-iron to four feet and holed out for three and a net birdie four points. Sewell chose a much more unconventional route — he struck a good drive, left his pitch a foot short of the green then boldly chipped in from 30ft for another net eagle and four points. Fifteen points on those two holes helped them to halfway.

They went into the competition believing that they would need 90 points to win and when they completed the front nine in only 39 thought that their chance had gone. However, the Stoke Poges course was not yielding hard-ly, and it was with surprise that Charles Russell found themselves level with their four opponents.

SCORES: 85 Charles Russell, Pro-Sport International Ltd, The Cable Corporation, Dun & Bradstreet, Taylor Nelson AGB, 84; 83 Pro-Sport International Ltd, 82 Pro-Sport; 81 Blue Circle Industries plc, 80; 79 Origin UK, 78; 77 The London Clearing House Ltd, 76; 75 The London Clearing House Ltd, 74; 73 The London Clearing House Ltd, 72; 71 The London Clearing House Ltd, 70; 69 The London Clearing House Ltd, 68; 67 The London Clearing House Ltd, 66; 65 The London Clearing House Ltd, 64; 63 The London Clearing House Ltd, 62; 61 The London Clearing House Ltd, 60; 59 The London Clearing House Ltd, 58; 57 The London Clearing House Ltd, 56; 55 The London Clearing House Ltd, 54; 53 The London Clearing House Ltd, 52; 51 The London Clearing House Ltd, 50; 49 The London Clearing House Ltd, 48; 47 The London Clearing House Ltd, 46; 45 The London Clearing House Ltd, 44; 43 The London Clearing House Ltd, 42; 41 The London Clearing House Ltd, 40; 39 The London Clearing House Ltd, 38; 37 The London Clearing House Ltd, 36; 35 The London Clearing House Ltd, 34; 33 The London Clearing House Ltd, 32; 31 The London Clearing House Ltd, 30; 29 The London Clearing House Ltd, 28; 27 The London Clearing House Ltd, 26; 25 The London Clearing House Ltd, 24; 23 The London Clearing House Ltd, 22; 21 The London Clearing House Ltd, 20; 19 The London Clearing House Ltd, 18; 17 The London Clearing House Ltd, 16; 15 The London Clearing House Ltd, 14; 13 The London Clearing House Ltd, 12; 11 The London Clearing House Ltd, 10; 9 The London Clearing House Ltd, 8; 7 The London Clearing House Ltd, 6; 5 The London Clearing House Ltd, 4; 3 The London Clearing House Ltd, 2; 1 The London Clearing House Ltd, 0.

SAILING: STORMS GATHERING FOR FINAL APPROACH TO RIO

Golding closes on first-leg victory

BY EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

MIKE GOLDING, on *Group 4*, will be hoping that nothing goes wrong in the next three days as he leads the BT Global Challenge fleet down the Brazilian coast to the first stop-over at Rio de Janeiro. With around 650 miles to go, but with *Toshiba Wave Warrior* and *Concert* just 32 and 50 miles respectively behind him, victory in the first leg is still not assured.

Over the weekend, *Toshiba*, under Simon Walker, who has opted for a more easterly course than Golding, made up

ground in the breezier conditions offshore.

Yesterday, however, Golding, close reaching at 9.5 knots, was back in similar wind strength and current with a 24-hour run of 230 miles, closely matching that of *Toshiba*, while *Concert* managed 221 miles. The trio at the front of the fleet are well ahead with a gap of 82 miles to *Save The Children*. She leads the main pack of *Commercial Union*, *3Com*, and *Motorola* with *Heath Insured II* and *Ocean Rover* further back just six miles apart.

Although the east to south-easterly tradewinds may well

hold over the next few days, the weather is forecast to become increasingly unsettled as the yachts make their final approach to Rio with the possibility of thunder showers and squalls adding a little spice to the outcome.

On board *Concert* yesterday, excitement and concentration were high as the finish beckoned. "We avidly await each six-hour report," the crew reported. "Have we made any ground on *Group 4* and

Toshiba? Are *Save The Children*, *Commercial Union* and *3Com* any closer?"

Andrew Roberts, the BT Global Challenge project director, said yesterday that 28 of the 56 spinners on board the 14 yachts have been damaged to some degree. Of those, eight have not been fully repaired by the crews. One or two boats are therefore likely to face a four-hour time penalty on the next leg for damaging sails.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 49

HECKLESTER (a) A dresser of flax or hemp; originally feminine. From heckle, the instrument for combing or scutching flax. To heckle, meaning to severely causticise or cross-examine, is a metaphor from such literal hair-splitting. Caxton, *Dialogues*, 1481: "Roberte the heckler! Hath no more hemp!" And hath lost her heckle.

JUISE (a) Judgment, doom. A judicial sentence, or its execution. Possibly. An alteration from the Latin *judicium* judgment. Caxton, *Chronicle of England*, 1480: "Ye shall be loosed, by reason, had the kyng hath forswore you that juise."

IMPASTO (a) The laying on of colour thickly; impasting, as a characteristic of style. From the Italian *impasto* "to empaste, to raise paste, to put into paste. Also to belabour" (Florio, 1611). "A certain redundancy, as some may account it, gives fullness, or what the painters call impasto, to his style."

HESPERORNIS (a) The name of a genus of fossil birds of the western hemisphere. From the Greek *hesperos* of the evening, western + *ornis* a bird. The *Hesperornis*, described by Marsh in 1872 as a carnosaurus swimming outside provided with teeth which he considered a character inherited from some reptilian ancestor.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Nf5! wins, e.g. 1... exd5 2 Bb4+ and mate follows, or 1... Kf6 2 Nxe4+ Bxf3 3 Qh4+ also mating.

RADIO CHOICE

On the horns of a dilemma

Gosling on *España*. Radio 4 (FM), 10.00am.

Now here's something to chew on. England has a million virtues and five defects, while Spain has five virtues and a million defects. It's not Ray Gosling who makes this sweeping claim in his third report on Spain 1996: he is too astute a broadcaster to do anything like that. It's Michael Robinson, former football player for Liverpool and now a sports commentator in the Iberian peninsula. He doesn't elaborate beyond saying cryptically that England's defects get up his nose, while Spain's virtues are wonderful. I suspect the one Spanish virtue Gosling detects is bullfighting. What authority, I wonder, does Robinson have for saying the most passionate aficionados of *la corrida* are English.

The Women in His Life. Radio 2, 8.30pm.

Bert Coules, adapter of Radio 4's Sherlock Holmes stories, has been entrusted with the first radio serialisation of a Barbara Taylor Bradford novel. It looks as if he has another success on his hands, though I have to confess that my spirits did begin to slump when part one began with a string of different people saying "I love you" and an attempt was made to pluck at my heart strings with the tearjerker *Beautiful Dreamer* and the opening bars of Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. But the music proves to be in a good cause. It is the necessary softer for the grim realities of a Jewish family's experiences in Hitler's Germany.

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

6.30am Chris Evans, includes Newsbeat 6.00 Simon Mayo, includes the Golden Hour and Confessions 12.00am. Includes at 12.30pm-12.45 Newsbeat and at 1.45 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whalley and Steve Lamacq 8.00 Cling Farm with Mark Kermode and Mary Anne Hobbes 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00am Claire Sturgess 4.00am Chris Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2

6.00am Martin Koller 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Kate Aslin 1.30pm Debbie Thorne 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hayes Over Britain 8.30 The Women in His Life. See Choice 1 (8) 9.00 Glad to be Grey 10.00 The Sector's Tales. A series starring George Cole as the season of Highgate Cemetery (4/5) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.00am Adrian Frighin 3.00 Alex Lister

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.48 Wake up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme, incl at 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine, with Diana Wedd 12.00 Midday with Mel, incl at 12.35pm Moneycheck 2.05 Racecast on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 The Tuesday Match, with Mark Pegg 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night News 12.00am After Hours 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Rose 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anne Pearson 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00 Dring, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz Dee's Sportszone 10.00 James White 1.00am Ian Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST News on the hour 5.30am Sunday Today 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 World Today 7.30 Anything Goes 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 New Ideas 8.50 Waveguide 9.10 Words of Faith 9.15 Thirty-Minute Drama 9.45 Good Books 10.05 Business 10.15 Brain of Britain 10.45 Sport 11.30 BBC English 11.45 Off the Shelf 12.30pm Mendan Feature 1.05 Business 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Countdown 2.05 Outlook 3.30 Music 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News 4.45 News at Five 5.30 Business 6.45 Britain Today 6.05 World Today 6.15 Voicebox 6.30 News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.30 Countdown 9.05 Outlook 9.25 Words of Faith 9.30 Megamix 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Mendan Feature 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 11.55am Voicebox 12.15 Annals of Power 12.30 Megamix 1.30 Folk Routes 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Mendan 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Europe Today

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Mike Road 8.00 Barry Tack 12.00 Susanah Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto Vivaldi (Season Concerto in A minor) 3.00 Jamie Cull 6.00 Newsnight 8.30 News 10.05 Business 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 Mendan Feature 11.30 World Today 11.45 Sports Roundup 11.55am Voicebox 12.15 Annals of Power 12.30 Megamix 1.30 Folk Routes 1.45 Britain Today 2.30 Outlook 2.55 Words of Faith 3.30 Mendan 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 Europe Today

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jon's Breakfast Experience 8.00 Richard Skinner 12.00pm News 1.00pm Ricki Home 7.00 Paul Coope (FM) 2.00am Rascal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, includes Rossini (Overture: Semiramide) and Gershwin (Suite: Catfish Row) 8.00 Morning Collection, includes Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in F, Op 8 No 3, Autumn); Strauss (Horn Concerto No 2) 10.00 Musical Encounters, includes Novak (Eternal Longing); Ravel (Trois Poemes de Stephane Mallarmé); Martinu (Symphony No 1) 12.00 Composer of the Week: Reginald

1.00pm News, The BBC Christmas Eve 2.00pm BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, under Mervyn Brabbin, Claire Rutter, soprano; Wagner (Lohengrin, prelude to Act 1 and 2); Constantine (Chants d'Auvergne); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 3 in A minor) 2.30 Out of the Air, John Lush, four narrators reading Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* (the last tale was elevated to a new status, the fairy tale attacked for its lack of reality and the classics newly revealed)

3.10 The BBC Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, under Andrew Davis, with Arthur Pizarro, piano, at the Forum, Leverkusen, Germany; Berlioz (Overture: *Bataille de Dantzig*); Rachmaninov (Piano Concerto No 3 in D minor); Tippett (Symphony No 4)

5.00 Music Machine, Lucie Skiving's report on early music continues with viols, rebecs, vielles and the bum fiddle 5.15 In Tune, with Mairi Nicolson, including Derygo Penhach (After You've Gone); Bach (Prelude and Fugue in B flat)

11.30 Composer of the Week: Franck 12.30am Jazz Notes 1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00 News Briefing 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Player for the Day 6.30 Today 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Better Left Unsaid? (a) 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Call Mick Ross 0171-580 4444

10.00 News; Gosling on *España* (FM); See Choice 1 10.00 Daily Service (LW) 10.15 On This Day (LW) 10.30 Woman's Hour 11.30 All in the Mind 12.00 News; You and Yours, with Lesley Riddoch 12.25pm Hooray Tim Brooke-Taylor chairs the storytelling game with Michael Barrat, Bernard Cribbins and Rick Wakeman 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News; Books and Company. The last of the series with John Walsh (i) 2.30 Composer's Notes with Brian Kay, former Prime Minister Sir Edward Heath, who celebrated his 80th birthday earlier this year, reminisces with Brian Kay about his career as a conductor 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Dore Braham 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope, Paul Vaughan reads a biography of Lawrence Durrell and investigates the lives of two fictional characters 4.45 Short Story: The Present, by Pope Gladhill. The day Tilly gave Anna a ring for her birthday was the day that things went wrong. Read by Janet Water

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55 Weather 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Chambers. A sitcom about the questionable practices of a group of barristers written by Clive Coleman. With John Bird, James Fleet and Lesley Sharp (1/5) (i) 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 On 4, with Mark Wintaker 8.00 Science Now, with Peter Evans (i) 8.30 The Network. Good health care requires good information. An up-to-date doctor treating a well informed patient is ideal. So how can the information revolution improve practice of medicine? Alan Lewis investigates in the last of the series 9.00 In Touch. Jane Cossy with news, views and information for visually impaired people for Kaleidoscope (i) 9.59 Weather 10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Bookers at Bedtime. An extract from *Johnny Raver* by Hansel by Beryl Brabridge 11.00 Mediumwave (i) 11.30 My Father Said To Me. Edward Glaser and others of his generation recall the parental advice they were given more than half a century ago — phrases, homilies and admonitions which have haunted them throughout their adult lives (i) 12.00 News and 12.27am Weather 12.30 The Late Book: Primary Colors. The anonymously authored bestseller, read by Clarke Peters (7/10) 12.45 Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.8-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6. LW 198. MW 648. LW 105.8. MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053. 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis.



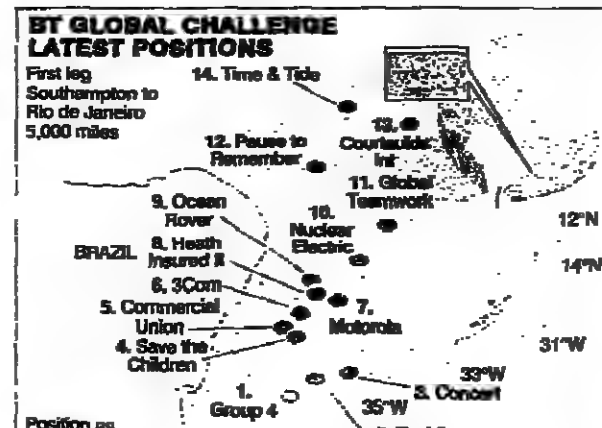
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MILES TO RIO DE JANEIRO: 1. Group 4 (855); 2. Toshiba Wave Warrior (701); 3. Concert (719); 4. Save The Children (611); 5. Commercial Union (614); 6. 3Com (637); 7. Motorola (654); 8. Heath Insured II (668); 9. Ocean Rover (684); 10. Nuclear Electric (694); 11. Global Teamwork (1,023); 12. Pause to Remember (1,172); 13. Countdown (1,253); 14. Time & Tide (1,309).

BASEBALL 48

New boy Jones
puts Yankees
to sword

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 22 1996

GOLF 50

Woods blazes
trail for
new generation



Interest high in QPR forward

Sinclair heads Tottenham's shopping list

By PETER BALL AND RICHARD HOBSON

THE chase for Trevor Sinclair, the Queens Park Rangers forward, intensified yesterday with Everton, Leeds United and Tottenham Hotspur signalling their interest, although they stopped short of making bids until he becomes officially available. Sinclair put in a written transfer request at the end of last week that will be discussed at the next QPR board meeting.

In the meantime, Tottenham were the most forthcoming after revealing that their attempt to sign Emanuele Petiti, the AS Monaco and France defender, had failed.

"I contacted QPR over the weekend to remind them of our interest in Trevor," Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, said. "When we put in our initial bid, we were told he is not for sale but we wanted to make sure we would be notified of any change in that situation."

QPR do not have a scheduled board meeting until early November, but there were suggestions yesterday that they might consider the request before that. Tottenham's initial bid, however, was £3 million and QPR are expected to want at least £5 million.

Leeds, who have been linked with Sinclair for some time, and Everton are likely to be prepared to meet that figure. Like Tottenham, Everton have asked QPR to keep them informed.

Leeds, too, are certain to try very hard to sign Sinclair. Their performance at Aston Villa on Saturday was described by George Graham, their manager, as "the worst since I joined the club" and left him in little doubt about his need for signings.

Savo Milosevic could leave Aston Villa just seven months after his outstanding perfor-

mance in the Coca-Cola Cup final victory over Leeds. Doug Ellis, the chairman, confirmed that two Italian clubs, including Perugia, had "expressed an interest" in Milosevic, who arrived from Partizan Belgrade in July last year.

He has scored twice in eight games this season and was left out of the side that beat Leeds on Saturday. It emerged yesterday that Perugia have been monitoring events since the end of last season. Francesco Ghirelli, the general manager, said that Milosevic was among 20 players on their shortlist for consideration.

After winning promotion to Serie A in 1995-96, Perugia are tenth in the 18-team division. "We are not in a position where we need to rush into the market," Ghirelli said.

Brian Little, the Villa manager, said that he wanted to help the player through his lapse in form and dismissed reports that Milosevic had left the ground in anger on Saturday. "We have here a talented player who is under contract," Little said. "He has had a difficult few weeks, but he is well-liked at the club."

By raising around £4.5 mil-

lion through the sale of Milosevic, Little would be in a position to bid for Stan Collymore, who has performed spasmodically for Liverpool since his move from Nottingham Forest. Collymore supported Villa as a child and lives in Cannock.

"I never comment on players under contract with other clubs, but anybody who thinks you get rid of a player one day and pull in his replacement the next is living in the world of fantasy football," Little said. "My last transfer (Sasa Curcic) took seven months to put together."

The threat of a players' strike in the Nationwide League remains over the Professional Footballers' Association's (PFA) claim for 10 per cent of the new £25 million Sky television contract. The League's board of directors was expected to make the PFA an offer yesterday, but last night Gordon Taylor, the chief executive of the PFA, had not been contacted.

Instead, a statement by the League said that further talks with the PFA would be held in the near future. "We are not in a position to divulge the nature of our discussions at the moment, but we will be in communication with the PFA shortly," Chris Hull, the League spokesman, said.

There has been a reprieve for Port Vale. Bill Bell, the chairman, yesterday withdrew his threat to close the club down if a buyer was not found within seven days.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, met with Keith Wiseman, the chairman of the Football Association, yesterday to discuss whether Paul Gascoigne should be omitted from the England squad after recent controversies in which he was involved, but, according to David Davies, an FA spokesman, concluded that "any decisions which affect the England team will be taken when all the circumstances have been considered".



Richard Attwood gives his son, Bruce, a few tips before he competes in the Elf Fastrack finals at Silverstone

Attwood aiming for the big time

By JOHN GOODBODY

IT IS not only Damon Hill who is following in his father's car tracks. When Graham Hill, father of the new Formula One world champion, won the 1968 Monaco Grand Prix on the way to the second of his two world titles, another Briton, Richard Attwood, was second.

At Silverstone this week Attwood's son, Bruce, is one of 40 candidates competing for a single place at Elf's world-famous driving school, La Filière, and a fully-funded season of single-seater racing.

The motor sport "university", at Le Mans, has already launched the careers of more than 30 Formula One drivers, including Alain Prost, four times the world champion. It will be the first time that an English pupil has benefited from the scheme, which has received the backing of Frank Williams, owner of the Williams team.

"There are a number of world-famous

names who were protégés through this system, including Prost," Williams said. "If the right man arrives through the scheme, he will emerge as a world championship candidate."

It is the first serious attempt at motor racing by Attwood, 21, a student in the second year of a degree course majoring in sports studies at Worcester College of Further Education. His track experience is limited to one brief, light-hearted outing at karting. Attwood, who has spent his 21st birthday money on entering the competition, said: "I am going for it and, obviously, will be trying to follow in my dad's footsteps."

Attwood, from Pittingham, near Wolverhampton, admires not only Damon Hill's driving ability but also his determination to succeed when he received such little backing early in his career. He said of his father: "Dad has got pushed me and, if anything, has put the dampers on the idea as he does not want to get my hopes up for the

competition. He is quite reserved and likes to keep things to himself. The only time he really talks about racing is when he is with friends at events such as the British Grand Prix."

Attwood Sr, who won Le Mans in 1970, said of his son's attempt: "He's a good road driver and wanted to have a go to see where he is. I believe he should look at this week as something for enjoyment and experience."

Could he win the award? "That is Utopia. The chances are inordinately remote when you have never done anything before you cannot believe someone is going to be No 1," Attwood Sr said about getting started in the sport. "I always look on the dark side. You cannot generate money unless you are brilliant at getting sponsorship."

If the world of motor racing proves impenetrable, Attwood, who is also a county standard tennis player, has the fall-back position of his degree and a probable career in the leisure industry.

Wembley earns call-up for national service

By DAVID MILLER

THE Football Association and the British Athletic Federation (BAF), the two most relevant national governing bodies with the widest responsibilities, nationally and internationally, yesterday announced emphatic preference for Wembley as the new national sports stadium. The Rugby Football League gave similar backing. A belated final decision, after prolonged postponement, is expected by the end of the year.

The decision is one that could, should and would have been made a year ago if Britain had a coherent national body with its finger on the pulse of commercial and international perspective. It does not. Instead it has the Sports Council.

It has long been known that the FA, unofficially, favoured Wembley, football's traditional home since it opened in 1923, but the FA wanted to negotiate a more financially acceptable administration contract with the present stadium owners, who will receive an operating licence in return for sale of the privately-owned site as a public facility funded by the National Lottery.

A national stadium in the North, for all the long-standing dominance of Lancashire football teams, would not make long-term sense, domestically or internationally. There has to be the widest perspective. With Manchester twice rejected as Olympic host city, the message is clear: if the international community comes to Britain for a major sports festival, it wants to come to London. The British Olympic Association has unofficially accepted this and the next British Olympic bid is certain to be by London, for 2008 or later.

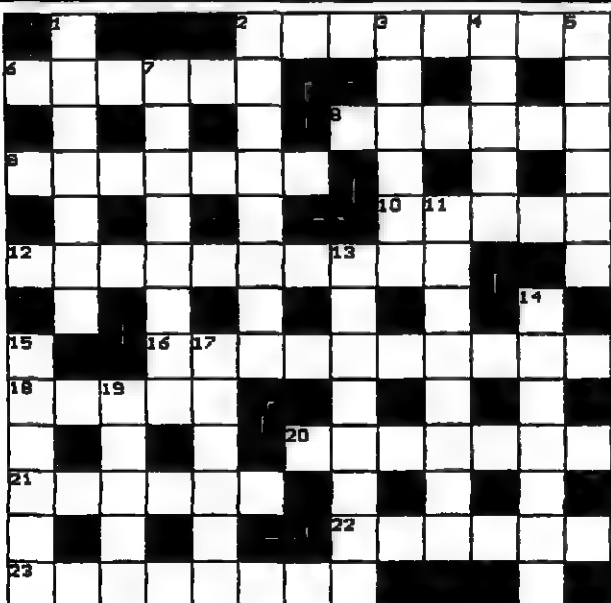
The BAF decision is equally predictable. The International Amateur Athletic Federation has made it clear that London is a serious candidate for the 2001 world championships if it is the site of the new stadium. If not, forget it. The indication is the same from the European Athletic Union regarding possible hosting of the European championships.

While the Olympics could have been staged splendidly by Manchester, there can be no question that, in the long-term, for all sports, London is the logical answer.



Sinclair: £5m price-tag

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ACROSS

- 2 House-buying loan (5)
- 6 Fairground game (6)
- 8 School absconder (6)
- 9 Thrift (7)
- 10 Skilful (5)
- 12 Nose kept to it by the busy (10)
- 16 The enemy personified (6,4)
- 18 Pipes; valves (5)
- 20 This heaven the ultimate (7)
- 21 Decay; rankle (6)
- 22 Decorative tuft (6)
- 23 And so on (2,6)

DOWN

- 1 Witchcraft (7)
- 3 American monkey (5)
- 3 Chequered design of clan (6)
- 4 Quartz gemstone; a marble (5)
- 5 Thing (existing by itself) (6)
- 7 Pocket cutter (8)
- 11 Dexterly (8)
- 13 Entertainment; a treetop (anag.) (8)
- 14 Uncountable numbers of (7)
- 15 Gag, suppress (6)
- 17 Agreement (6)
- 19 Without optional extras (5)

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Campese reaches century

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

DAVID CAMPESE will follow Philippe Sella into the record books tomorrow when he makes his hundredth international appearance for Australia, against Italy, in Padova. Sella, the former France centre now playing for Saracens, retired after the 1995 World Cup with 111 caps and will now concede his unique status of reaching the century.

Campese, who made his international debut in 1982, celebrated his 34th birthday yesterday knowing that if he can hold his form he has the chance to raise his mark to 103 at least, should he play in the games against Scotland, Ireland and Wales. Given that his international career seemed over last year, when he was dropped against New Zealand after a disappointing World Cup, his restoration is all the more remarkable.

He will play on one wing with Tim Horan, hitherto

regarded as one of the world's great centres, on the other. Greg Smith, the Australia coach, believes Horan's broken-field running will gain greater expression from the wing. "I think we will be better served with Tim out wide," Smith said after naming a XV that includes another veteran, David Knox, now 33, at stand-off half.

But the Australians have already lost one of their key forwards for the entire tour. Garrick Morgan, will fly home, probably today, after breaking a bone in his foot during the win over an Italy A side in Catania on Saturday. Morgan, the Queensland lock who returned to union after an unhappy spell in rugby league, will be replaced by Warwick Waugh, the experienced New South Walian.

Meanwhile Bath, searching for the consistent form that will earn them a place in the

later stages of the Heineken Cup, have been linked with Federico Mendez, the Argentinian hooker now playing his rugby in Natal. Mendez, a try-scorer in his adopted province's Currie Cup semi-final win over Free State at the weekend, will not make himself available for Argentina's commitments against South Africa and in England, but is considering his future.

"I've had some good offers from overseas and I haven't made my final decision," he said. One offer is understood to be from Bath, who have considered strengthening their pack by the addition of two non-English players of acknowledged stature; Mendez would fit the bill, having been part of a front row that gave best to no one in the 1995 World Cup.

AUSTRALIA (v Italy): M Byrne; D Campese; D Horne; P Horne; T Horan; G Morgan; D Knox; A Smith; D Waugh; J Waugh; J Ellis; D Wilson; M Steel.

Smith loses grip on putter issue

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

DO YOU love 'em or hate 'em? In golf, there are few half measures and few players who do not have a strong opinion about them. You are either for the long-handled putter that has transformed the career of Sam Torrance, among others, or like Colin Montgomerie, you do not want to be in the same room as one. There is a school of thought that wants them to be banned.

In a sport full of space-race technology and jargon, such long putters appear odd, old-fashioned and cumbersome. Players who use them look bizarre because one hand has to clasp the end against the

breastbone or under the chin while the other hand is placed halfway down the handle. Then the putter is swung as if it is a hinge.

Taylor Smith has no particular affection for these implements. Not, at least, after what

Tiger burning bright — 50

happened to him at the weekend.

Smith, a journeyman professional in the United States, was wielding his 44-inch putter to considerable effect in a tournament in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. With one

round to go he shared the lead. A first tournament victory in his first season as a professional seemed a real possibility.

Then Smith fell foul of one of golf's many rules. The United States Golf Association has decreed that the grips on such putters must be flattened on one side. Halfway through his round he was reported to officials. At the end of the round he was disqualified.

There are enough rules of golf to shake either a stick at or a long-handled putter. But remember, only if the grips are perfectly round.

Money for nothing appeals to Lewis

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX LEWIS, the British heavyweight, could be in line for another big payment from Don King — once again for doing nothing.

Earlier this year, Lewis, the World Boxing Council's (WBC) No 1 contender, picked up \$4 million (about £2.5 million) for agreeing not to meet Mike Tyson and for allowing Tyson to meet Bruce Seldon instead. This time Lewis is taking King, the American promoter, to court to claim \$450,000.

Panos Eliades, Lewis's financial adviser and backer, said yesterday that he is intending to start proceedings in a New Jersey court today and expecting the court to order King to pay the money.

As the winner of the bid to stage the bout between Lewis and Oliver McCall, King was obliged by WBC rules to give Lewis a contract within 15 working days or forfeit the deposit of \$90,000 (10 per cent of his \$9 million bid), which he had to leave with the WBC. Eliades said that Lewis is entitled to 50 per cent of the deposit and McCall the other 50 per cent.

According to Eliades, all he has received so far from King was the date of December 7 for the bout, but, as there was no contract giving the time and venue, he has to go to court to secure the money.

Eliades said: "King did give me a date, December 7, but Sky, which will be televising the fight, told me that they had no date in December but one in January, so we went back to court."



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Uzbek warlord turns mediator and presents proposal for ceasefire

Embattled Taleban weighs deal for Afghan power share

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN KABUL

A CEASEFIRE could be in the making between forces fighting for control of Kabul, the Afghan capital. Taleban, the Islamic militia that captured the city three weeks ago, said last night it was ready to deal with its enemies — a rare hint at compromise.

In classic Afghan fashion, different factions sent out different signals yesterday. Ahmed Shah Masood, military commander of the former government forces, said ceasefire negotiations had collapsed. Pakistani mediators were last night frantically trying to revive the earlier optimism.

Taleban appears enthusiastic about the prospects for peace. It did not rule out the idea of power-sharing in Kabul, declaring that Afghanistan should be governed by all sections of the people. That was moderate language indeed for the hardline Taleban mullahs, whose forces control three-quarters of the country.

While talk of peace went on, so did the fighting. Shells were aimed at the civilian airport for the second day and northern edges of Kabul were hit by artillery fire. Sounds of shelling could be heard as darkness fell.

The ceasefire proposal was made by General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the northern

Uzbek warlord whose troops and heavy weapons have moved south to support the forces of the former Government, positioned about ten miles north of the city. Taleban has repeatedly refused to negotiate with the old Government: that has been overcome by General Dostum acting as negotiator for both armies.

Taleban said it was ready for a ceasefire if there was a full exchange of prisoners, which seems acceptable to General Dostum. Details of the timing and place of the exchange, and the duration of any end to hostilities, have not been settled. Taleban said there could be peace on the

battlefield as soon as its enemies agreed the details. It would not reveal how many prisoners were involved.

Any suspension of fighting could offer a chance to negotiate a longer ceasefire; Pakistani mediators are trying to persuade all sides to enter talks. United Nations peace efforts are overshadowed by the Pakistani initiative, to the UN's annoyance. Norbert Holl, the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, had some startling observations about Taleban's ignorance of international procedures. Its leaders knew a lot about fighting but little about world or economic factors, he said. "Sometimes I think they have understood what I mean, but then you realise they have not — they have never known what a verbal note is, for example." They probably thought it was just rubbish, he said.

General Dostum has proposed the demilitarisation of Kabul to enable peace negotiations to begin, but Mullah Mohammed Mujahid, Information and Culture Minister for Taleban, claimed, astonishingly, that the city was already demilitarised and in the hands of the police. That does not tally with the daily test-firing of heavy guns, which continued yesterday.



Masood: won support of Dostum's forces



Taleban fighters march through Hussein Kot village, north of Kabul, after retaking it

Chechen rebel leader gives Russians ten days to pull out

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN NOVYE ATAGI

CHECHNYA'S rebel President, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, gave a warning yesterday that the war in his republic could reignite if Moscow did not withdraw all of its forces by the end of this month.

He also regretted the sacking of Aleksandr Lebed as Moscow's special envoy to Chechnya, but said he was relying on the Russians to stick by the peace agreement signed in August.

"If just one Russian soldier stays here it means the war has not finished," Mr Yandarbiyev told *The Times* in an interview at his headquarters, ten miles south of Grozny.

General Lebed's peace agreement is continuing to be implemented, with what is a much more rapid troop pull-out than the one from Afghanistan in the late 1990s.

Yesterday the 104th parachute regiment held its departure ceremony and left by rail. The Russians say more than half their troops have now pulled out, although they declined to give any timetable, or name any figures.

But a clash appears to be imminent over the future of the 101st and 205th brigades. Moscow says they are "permanently deployed" in Chechnya and not subject to the pullout. Mr Yandarbiyev said he expected all forces, including those brigades, to leave by the end of this month. Their continued presence, he said, would be a provocation and he could not answer for the consequences.

The issue could be even more explosive after the sacking last week of General Lebed, the author of the Chechen peace plan, and his replacement by Ivan Rybkin who, when Speaker of the Russian Parliament, actively supported the military in Chechnya.

Mr Yandarbiyev said he felt regret at the sacking of General Lebed, but declined to comment on Mr Rybkin, saying only that they had not been in contact.

Shirvani Basayev, a top rebel commander, was more outspoken. He got on well personally with General Le-

bed, a fellow military man, when they met at negotiations, and said the general did "everything possible to stop this war".

But Mr Rybkin was, "small change". "A person who started this war will never end it."

Mr Yandarbiyev, a poet with a black bushy beard, and wearing the traditional Chechen hat of grey and black astrakhan fur, sounded like a man who will stick to a tough line.

The southern half of Chechnya is now completely under his control. Not a single Russian checkpoint remains and armed fighters moved around unhindered. Cars and buildings sport the green, white and red flag of independent Chechnya.

"Can you deny that we are an independent state or do you feel this is part of Russia?" asked Mr Yandarbiyev.

His problem is that he may be eclipsed by his chief military commander, Aslan Maskhadov. Mr Maskhadov negotiated the peace deal and is now the most popular man in Chechnya and Prime Minister of the provisional government. Mr Yandarbiyev would clearly like to be re-elected in polls set for January, but he acknowledged that Mr Maskhadov might stand.

He is also preoccupied with the fate of almost the entire print run of his memoirs: 5,000 copies printed in the Ukraine were seized by Russian customs officials and Mr Yandarbiyev himself has only one copy to show visitors. He hopes that under independence he may be compensated for his loss.



Kabul's de luxe delights: corn flakes and boiled insects

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

KABUL is a smugglers' town, an Aladdin's Cave of music systems, foreign groceries, cheap watches and, in extreme profusion, some of the world's leading cigarette brands. For beleaguered Britons here craving basic essentials like Heinz baked beans and M&S bars, there are well-stocked shops on Chicken Street.

This oasis was once a source of alcohol, as rare in Afghanistan as oil. Before the Mujahidin captured the city in April 1992, there was an excellent under-the-counter wine cellar in one grocery, whose shelves are

still adorned with such delights as Kellogg's corn flakes and Cadbury's chocolate — alas, while and crumbling with age — smuggled through Pakistan and Central Asia.

A day or two after the Mujahidin invaded on that Saturday in spring, I watched a British television journalist standing forlornly in the middle of Chicken Street as a gunman opened the boot of his taxi and discovered lots of French wine. These were removed and smashed with much ceremony.

Chicken Street is now as dry as the Afghan plains, because alcohol consumption could mean the loss of a

limb under Taleban rule. Even the most famous bootlegger of old, known by the code-name The Chinaman, sticks these days to selling Indian tuna fish, canned fruit juice from the Middle East and the occasional jar of caviar.

The carpet shops in Chicken Street do a middling trade from aid workers and itinerant journalists descending for the occasional big story. These traders are desperate enough to accept a personal cheque for their rugs. They say they are rarely cheated: when they are, the guilty man or woman is liable to receive a visit at home in Europe or

the United States from an expatriate Afghan relative seeking payment.

When not at Chicken Street or hurrying around the front line in decrepit taxis, throngs of journalists crash on the floors of houses occupied by hospitable Kabul-based correspondents. The fortunate ones who landed early commandeered rooms at the German Club. The club, which most of the time is empty, has cleared its little theatre and turned it into a dormitory. At night there are snoring bodies in the snooker room and even on the sofas in the dining room.

A few years ago the club was

redecorated and the Afghan painters found a nice picture in a cupboard, which they put on the wall. It was Hitler inspecting his troops: the manager returned it hurriedly to its dark home. The German Club cooks do well, given their limited resources, but cauliflower is always served with boiled insects.

The alternative eatery is the United Nations Staff House, the heart of Kabul gossip, where the cooks do rather better. I heard yesterday that somebody had acquired a bottle of Black Label, but it is only a rumour. I value my right hand too much to inquire further.

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I was a child sex abuse victim

Abused as a child, Peter Saunders has decided to 'come out' to help others. Interview by Heather Kirby

Peter Saunders, a lecturer in economics at Ealing College of Education, appears to be a cheerful, outgoing sort of person but inside he is still an unhappy child, haunted by vile memories and tortured by guilt. He was seriously sexually abused three or four times a week by a friend of his family from the age of eight until, at 13, he finally found the courage to say no.

Then he abused me emotionally and psychologically which I think, in the long term, has had a far worse effect on me," Mr Saunders says. He has decided to "come out" about his abuse because, when he needed to unburden himself, he could find no one who would listen. He now intends to set up an organisation to help other adults who were abused when they were children.

His childhood trauma exploded last year when his father was dying. "I realised, now he was on his deathbed, that I would never be able to tell him what happened, and I wanted to do so much. That made me incredibly angry. I was angry about being brought up in a household where I could not talk about a thing like that. My father was strict, a disciplinarian, but he wasn't cruel and I'm sure, if I had told him, he would have gone to the police like a shot. I felt I'd not been able to talk to him about it."

"All the family was around the deathbed and when it came to organising my father's funeral I blurted out, 'That bastard isn't coming and if he does, I'm not'. That's when I told them what had happened to me when I was a child. Another young male member of the family said that he had also been abused, by the same person, but he was reluctant to talk about it. He wanted to forget it and is now upset with me for bringing it all out into the open."

"No one else reacted the way I wanted them to instead of sympathy, my telling them about the abuse has torn our family apart. They have turned on me and won't speak to me. After that I thought I would never be able to tell another soul."

Peter Saunders's evidence, and

that of other individuals and organisations, will be made public today when the National Commission of Inquiry into the Prevention of Child Abuse publishes its findings. Part of his experiences will be relayed on a video because, a spokeswoman for the commission explains, "It is very painful for people to speak repeatedly about their distressing experiences."

The national commission, funded by the NSPCC, was launched in August 1994 to examine a broad range of public and specialist evidence about the causes of child abuse, and how it can be prevented.

Recently Peter Saunders met other survivors and has started

you into college — his school. He managed it somehow — my family thought he was doing me a huge favour — but they were the worst days of my life. He was head of the PE department and would grab at me in the showers. He made remarks like 'You are not going to interest any of the girls with that.'"

For a 14-year-old it was devastating. Then, when I fell in love with a French girl, he said I had no hope, she'd never fall for a 'thickie' like me."

Shortly after his father's funeral, Saunders rang Childline, but they could not help because they deal only with children. When he rang the NSPCC the response was the same. "It seemed as if there was no one to turn to. I went to the police but they were not interested, because the crime happened more than 20 years ago. My one tiny bit of revenge was going to his school and making a statement. Although he denied it, he subsequently resigned, so he is finished as a teacher."

Some experts think that as many as one in five children are abused.

If you include, for instance, the belittling of children by adults in the category of abuse — and most agree on a figure of at least one in ten. Elspeth Kemp, a consultant clinical psychologist for North Lakeland Health Care, says: "Children cope with abuse at the time by splitting off their emotions. Amazingly, they can remember, 30 or 40 years later, everything as if it were yesterday. The sudden urge to talk about it can be triggered when they find themselves as adults in a situation of powerlessness. As children they could not cope with what was happening to them, but when they are adults they can use adult resources to deal with it."

Peter Saunders now lives apart from his wife and two children of nine and seven, although he sees them every other weekend. "I have been unhappy for much of my life without knowing why. After my father's death I became seriously depressed, but now I feel very positive. The one thing that bastard gave me is an ability to empathise with victims of child abuse."



Peter Saunders

'No one reacted to it the way I wanted them to'



Carla Powell (above) with her newly honoured husband Sir Charles Powell, and (right), leading Labour hostess, Gail Rebeck



Pamela Harriman: chatelaine of the US Embassy in Paris



Return of the political hostess

The political hostess is back. Michael Gove on the renaissance of a much missed breed

Pamela Harriman, mother of the Tory MP Winston Churchill, and now chatelaine of the US Embassy in Paris. During the 1980s in Britain, however, the hostess was knocked off her trolley by the onward march of *la Thatcher*. Feminine fixers were eclipsed by the woman who preferred to lead a party instead of giving one. Elegant ladies who found their invitations unanswered knew what Thatcher meant when she said she believed there was "no such thing as Society". But now the hostess is back. Carla Powell is the most prominent of the new generation, counting, besides Sir James Goldsmith, Tories from the dripping wet Tristan Garel-Jones to the desert dry Norman Lamont among her acquaintances — as well as being on giggling terms with Labour's Peter Mandelson.

Carla's easy intimacy with the powerful, combined with the Italian instinct to turn every meal into an event, if not a three-act drama, makes her a natural society hostess. Most hostesses use caterers to allow them to devote their undivided attention to their décolletage before dinner, to the diners during, and to dissection afterwards. Carla, however, wields a mean Sabatier.

Other hostesses who lean to the Right include Tessa Keckwick, daughter of the late Lord Lovat and now married to Hong Kong businessman Henry; Barbara Amiel, the intellectual prizefighter wife of Telegraph proprietor Conrad Black; and Biddy Cash, thoroughbred partner of Bill, the Euro-expert for whom the word indefatigable might first have been minted.

Biddy kept the Tory rebels in high spirits during the battle of Maastricht with champagne suppers in the sceptic's den, a house opposite the Commons in Great Col-

lege Street loaned by Alistair McAlpine.

One regular guest, William Sitwell, says: "An invitation to a Euro-sceptic gathering used to be about as sought after as a night on the tiles with Mother Teresa but Biddy changed that. An important battle which could seem boring became sexy."

Barbara Amiel prefers discreet dinners in her Chelsea home with literary lionesses sprinkled among the politicians and businessmen. Although both Canadians, she and her husband are as much part of London's political scene as the Queen's Speech.

Tessa Keckwick, who once worked as Ken Clarke's Conservative conscience, now runs the Centre for Policy Studies. As well as a midwife to ideas, she is also a matchmaker for talent. Tessa takes as many pains with her guests as the Treasury does with its figures. She sprinkles her handsome aristocratic relatives, such as the model Honor Fraser or the biographer Flora, in with grand business types such as Sir Ronnie Grierson and coming men such as Tory pamphleteer Edward Heathcoat-Amory.

A Blair government might mean change, but it wouldn't see any decline in the power of the hostess. Unlike the more formal dinners of their Tory rivals, the hostesses of the Left prefer the unstructured bonhomie of the buffet. In a rare nod towards *laissez-faire*, guests are encouraged to mingle rather than be subject to a central plan. It's a case of New Labour, No Placement.

The two leading new Labour hostesses are Gail Rebeck, chief executive at publishers Random House and wife of shadowy strategist Philip Gould, and the radical barrister, Helena Kennedy. The guest lists at either's events overlap — with figures such as Geoff Robertson, QC, almost as in demand as Cherie Booth. Media figures such as Melvyn Bragg and Clive Hollick and City socialist Gavin Davies are likely to be comparing notes while the hostess ensures that the only dangerous red is the Argentine merlot.

While ambition still lurks in politicians' breasts there will be a place for the hostess, as there is for the mistress — but the former remains, in her role as the lubricant of the democratic machine, an altogether good thing and worth raising a succession of glasses to.

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Singapore	60p	13:00
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In the second of two excerpts from his collected essays, the poet Joseph Brodsky attempts to persuade an audience of American college students of his belief that only through learning to value boredom can we truly appreciate life

But should you fail to keep your kingdom
And, like your father before you
come
Where thought accuses and feeling
mocks.
Believe your pain...
— W.H. Auden, *Alonso to Ferdinand*

In praise of boredom

Known under several aliases — anguish, ennui, tedium, doldrums, humdrum, the blahs, apathy, listlessness, stolidity, lethargy, languor, accidie, etc. — boredom is a complex phenomenon and, by and large, a product of repetition. It would seem, then, that the best remedy against it would be constant inventiveness and originality. Alas, life's main medium is precisely repetition. One may argue, of course, that repeated attempts at originality and inventiveness are the vehicle of progress and civilisation. As benefits of hindsight go, however, this one is not the most valuable. For should we divide the history of our species by scientific discoveries, not to mention ethical concepts, we will get, technically speaking, centuries of boredom. The very notion of originality or innovation spells out the monotony of standard reality, of life, whose main idiom is tedium. In that, life differs from art, whose worst enemy is cliché. On the whole, art treats boredom in a self-defensive, satirical fashion. The only way art can become a solace from boredom is if you yourselves become artists. But even should you march out in full force to typewriters, easels and Steinway grands, you won't shield yourselves from boredom entirely. If repetitiveness is boredom's mother, you, young and newfangled, will be quickly smothered by lack of recognition and low pay, both chronic in the world of art. But the other trouble with originality and inventiveness is that they pay off. If you are capable of either, you will become well off rather fast. Desirable as that may be, nobody is as bored as the rich, for money buys time, and time is repetitive. Everything that displays a pattern is pregnant with boredom. That applies to money in more ways than one, both to the banknotes as such and to possessing them. That is not to bill poverty, of course, as an escape from boredom. All one can suggest is to be a bit more apprehensive of money, for the zeros in your accounts may usher in their mental equivalents. As for poverty, boredom is the

most brutal part of its misery, and the departure from it takes more radical forms: of violent rebellion or drug addiction. In general, a man shooting heroin into his vein does so largely for the same reason you buy a video: to dodge the redundancy of time. On the whole, the difference in facility between a syringe's needle and a stereo's push button roughly corresponds to that between the acuteness and dullness of time's impact upon the have-nots and the haves. In short, whether rich or poor, sooner or later you will be afflicted by this redundancy of time. Potential haves, you'll be bored with your work, your friends, your spouses, your lovers, the view from your window, the furniture or wallpaper in your room, your thoughts, yourselves. Accordingly, you'll try to devise ways of escape. You may take up changing jobs, residence, climate; you may take up promiscuity, alcohol, travel, cooking lessons, drugs, psychoanalysis. For a while that may work. Until the day, of course, when you wake up in your bedroom amid a new family and a different wallpaper, in a different state and climate, with a heap of bills from your travel agent and your shrink, yet with the same stale feeling toward the light of day pouring through your window. Depending on your temperament or the age you are, you will either panic or resign yourself to the familiarity of the sensation; or else you'll go through the ringerole of change once more. There is yet another way out of it, however. Those of you who have read Robert Frost's *Servant to Servants* may remember a line of his: *The best way out is always through*. So what


I am about to suggest is a variation on the theme. When hit by boredom, go for it. In general, with things unpleasant, the rule is, the sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface. The idea here, to paraphrase another great poet of the English language, is to exact full look at the worst. The reason boredom deserves such scrutiny is that it represents time in all its repetitive, redundant, monotonous splendour. Boredom is your window on time's infinity, which is to say, on your insignificance in it. Once this window opens, don't try to shut it; on the contrary, throw it wide open. For boredom is to teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance. "You are finite," time tells you in a voice of boredom, "and whatever you do is, from my point of view, futile." The sense of futility, of limited significance even of your best, most ardent actions, is better than the illusion of their consequences and the attendant self-aggrandisement. For boredom is an invasion of time into your set of values. It puts your existence into its perspective. The more you learn about your own size, the more humble and the more compassionate you become to your likes, to the flocks of dust in a sunbeam or atop your table. You are to those flocks what time is to you; that's why they look so small. And do you know what the dust says when it's being wiped off the table? *Remember me, whispers the dust*. "I have quoted these lines by the German poet Peter Huchel because I, like them, because I recognise myself in them. "Remember me," says the dust." And one hears in this that if we learn about ourselves

The sooner you hit bottom, the faster you surface

from time, perhaps time, in turn, may learn something from us. What would that be? That inferior in significance, we best it in sensitivity. This is what it means — to be insignificant. If it takes will-paralysing boredom to bring this home, then hail the boredom. You are insignificant because you are finite. Yet the more finite a thing is, the more it is charged with life, emotions, joy, fears, compassion. For infinity is not terribly lively, not terribly emotional. Your boredom is the boredom of infinity. Respect it for its origins — as much perhaps as for your own. Because it is the anticipation of that inanimate infinity that accounts for the intensity of human sentiments, often resulting in a conception of a new life. This is not to say that you have been conceived out of boredom, or that the finite breeds the finite. It is to suggest, rather, that passion is the privilege of the insignificant. Passion, above all, is a remedy against boredom. Another one, of course, is pain — physical more so than psychological, passion's frequent aftermath; although I wish you neither. Still, when you hurt you know that at least you have not been deceived (by your body or by your psyche). By the same token, what is good about boredom is that it is not a deception. Try to embrace, or let yourself be embraced by, boredom and anguish. Endure it as long as you can, and then some more. Do not think you have goofed somewhere along the line, don't try to retrace your steps to correct the error. As the poet said, "Believe your pain." This awful bear hug is no mistake. Nothing that disturbs you is. Remember, there is no embrace in this world that won't finally unclasp. I wish you nothing but happiness. Still, there will be plenty of dark and dull hours. You ought to be fortified against that in some fashion; and that's what I've tried to do here. For what lies ahead is a remarkable but wearisome journey; you are boarding today, as it were, a runaway train. No one can tell you what lies ahead, least of all those who remain behind. One thing, however, they can assure you of is that it is not a round trip. Try to derive some comfort from the notion that no matter how unpalatable this or that station may turn out to be, the train doesn't stop there for good. © Abridged from *On Grief and Reason: Essays by Joseph Brodsky*, published by Hamish Hamilton on October 31, £20. © Joseph Brodsky 1996



Boredom can teach you the most valuable lesson in your life — the lesson of your utter insignificance



Looking good and Kwai ACE

Eighteen months ago I took a deep breath and moved on to start a new career, in another part of the country. Quite an upheaval, but I knew I was ready for a fresh challenge.

Busy is not the word — there's been a lot of socialising with work, finding and decorating the flat has meant some late nights, and I wasn't cooking properly for myself.

One day I realised — work's coming right, the flat's looking great — but look at me!


So first it was the new diet (goodbye to all those fatty foods) and then starting regular exercise. I bought a bike — now I cycle to work every day. I also tried Kwai ACE. It's a supplement that could help keep my heart healthy, by combining garlic's benefits with added vitamins A, C and E. The ACE vitamins are antioxidants that help protect the body's tissues against free radicals.

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Hungary for freedom, or just hungry?

Forty years on, George Fischer recalls the Hungarian uprising

It was spontaneous and bloody. Some say it was a magnificent defeat; others say it was a striking example of the Hungarians' longstanding propensity to suicidal futility. Hungary gained the admiration of the West and incurred the wrath of the Kremlin and the Red Army. The 1956 uprising left its mark on history, but what of its aspirations? Are they relevant today?

In retrospect, the road to October 1956 is clearly discernible: having occupied Hungary in 1945, the Soviet Union installed the arch-Stalinist regime of Matyas Rakosi, whose rule generated enormous misery, frustration and anger. Stalin's death in 1953 and Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin in February 1956 speeded up the ferment within the Communist parties of Central Europe, particularly in Poland and Hungary. Card-carrying intellectuals became vociferous in their condemnation of the Stalinists. Critical voices rose in the public at large, and in October, university students in Szeged and Budapest put their demands on paper: redressing the wrongs of the Rakosi regime, the withdrawal of Soviet troops, and free elections.

They called for a demonstration of solidarity with the Polish reformers on the afternoon of October 23. By the evening, Stalin's gigantic statue — which, in the words of a Hungarian novelist, "sodomised the skyline" — had been pulled down. By dawn, Soviet tanks were on the streets of Budapest. The fight was on. Small, uncoordinated groups with the single aim of getting rid of the Russians took on the Soviet armour. There was nothing more exhilarating than to bellow *Russkik, hazal!* — "Russians go home!" Fear and fury are, as I found, a potent combination.

Patchy official Hungarian and Soviet records of the period reveal indecisiveness, reaction rather than action, until October 31, when the minutes of the Praesidium record Khrushchev deciding against withdrawal, because "it would encourage the American, British and French imperialists... In addition to Egypt we would hand them Hungary as well." Next day, the Soviet high command sanctioned Operation Whirlwind. The Hungarian Government, by then led by Imre Nagy, a Moscow-trained Communist turned reformer, went through condemnation, acceptance and finally support for the uprising.

At dawn on November 4, nearly 60,000 Soviet troops began Operation Whirlwind. Within days, armed resistance was crushed. More than 2,500 died and about 20,000 were wounded. Parts of the capital lay in ruins. Of the Russian soldiers, 700 were killed and perhaps 1,500 were wounded. More than 200,000 people fled a country of ten million inhabitants. Khrushchev put Janos Kadar in charge of the country, and retribution began: 20,000 people were imprisoned, 230 were hanged.

By the late 1960s, however, a combination of economic reforms and relatively liberal social and political measures had improved living standards, and "goulash communism" was about to be established. Hungary took advantage of the almost complete de-Stalinisation of the Soviet bloc and became the leading economic reformer. By the late 1980s, it was also leading political reform — so much so that the party relinquished power and submitted itself to the democratic will in 1990.

After a 34-year hiatus, Hungary again stood on the threshold of democracy and independence, this time through a properly conducted election and with offers of substantial material help from America and the European Community. The Christian Democrat coalition Government saw the departure of Soviet troops, but it was inadequate to the intricate task of establishing a market economy without alienating its electoral majority. Nor did it manage to make a dent in the most insidious legacy of 40-odd years of Communist rule: corruption and mendacity. Dishonesty remains a tool of survival.

Yet this mentality briefly vanished during the uprising. There was no simple practical need to fiddle around with knife amnesty and school security, but with clear alternatives: what Mrs Lawrence called "chaos and disintegration" or coherence and common morality.

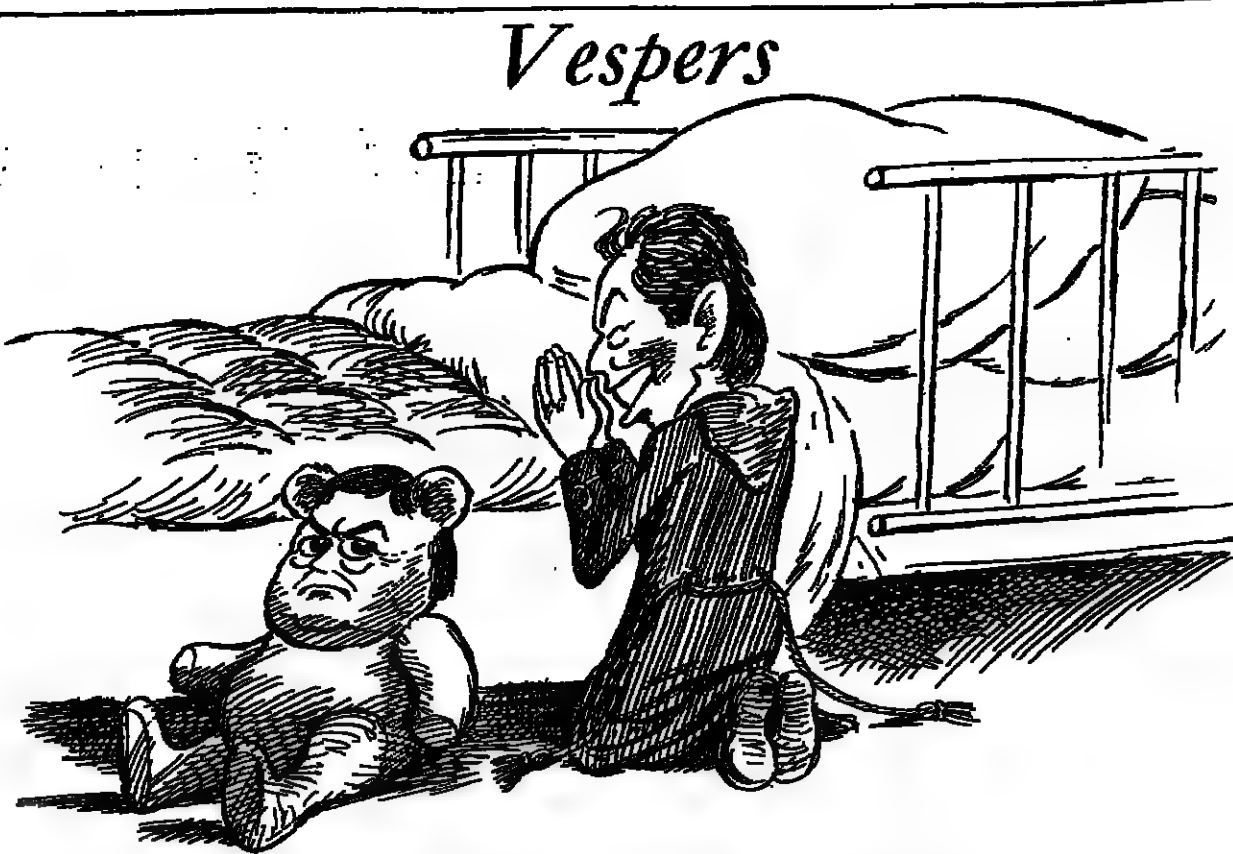
Listening to the 16-year-old killer did nothing to remove that sense of chaos. László Chindamo lived for his only identity, the gang; he had a spiritually impoverished home life, made an idol of a violent father and was calmly playing pool as his victim died. Mrs Lawrence is a remarkable and humane woman, and felt "no pleasure to see a young life locked away", but only an overwhelming sadness that Chindamo knew no better. Her husband, she has said with sad irony, would have wanted to help such a boy. After her dreadful loss, and her children's, she still believes in individual redemption.

It is that humanity which gives me the nerve to respond to Mrs Lawrence's words not only with an endorsement of her general ideas, but with something which at first sight seems incongruous: a plea for penal reform. In horrible cases, it may greatly relieve our feelings to lock people up; but it does no good at all until we also confront our communal responsibility for what happens next.

We have custody of this miserable youth now: we have imprisoned him, first in Feltham and now in the adult system. We control what happens to him, and to us when he is let out. We have 57,320 similar responsibilities, from Rosemary West to fraudsters and fine-defaulters, flashers and vagrants, drunk-drivers and drug-pushers, burglars and — any minute now — stalkers. There are 57,320 people in British prisons, more than ever before. We have got them: what next?

Something radical has to be done. Overcrowding is now so serious that it has emerged that the Home Office is preparing contingency plans to lock up prisoners in magistrates' court cells, kept in order by private guards. A security firm confirmed this to a newspaper: prison and probation officers responded with dismay, saying that such cells are dark, smelly, and designed only as waiting rooms.

Meanwhile the scheme for a mili-



Little Boy kneels at the foot of the bed,
Droops on the little hands little gold head.
Hush! Hush! Whisper who dares!
The Party Leader is saying his prayers.

God bless the Party, our Lords and MPs,
Constituency workers who try hard to please.
God bless the don't-knows, help them to see,
Don't bless the other lot, God bless ME.

22 X 96

John Brooks (a long way after A.A. Milne & E.H. Shepherd)

Prisoners of stupidity

Custodial sentences must become a last resort — and a constructive one

What Frances Lawrence says is true: the murder of her husband, Philip, is more than a personal tragedy. It faced us, that dreadful December day, not with some simple practical need to fiddle around with knife amnesty and school security, but with clear alternatives: what Mrs Lawrence called "chaos and disintegration" or coherence and common morality.

Listening to the 16-year-old killer did nothing to remove that sense of chaos. László Chindamo lived for his only identity, the gang; he had a spiritually impoverished home life, made an idol of a violent father and was calmly playing pool as his victim died. Mrs Lawrence is a remarkable and humane woman, and felt "no pleasure to see a young life locked away", but only an overwhelming sadness that Chindamo knew no better. Her husband, she has said with sad irony, would have wanted to help such a boy. After her dreadful loss, and her children's, she still believes in individual redemption.

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tary "boot camp" at Colchester to absorb civilian young offenders is already running into trouble over a possible legal challenge from the Prison Governors Association: a military commander is unequalled to run a civilian prison. Elsewhere, the Home Office has been snapping up pre-fab huts used by oil-rig workers to provide extra beds; before we know it, they will copy the Taliban idea of using cargo-containers. Front police cells to privatisation, every possible avenue is being explored which will enable us to warehouse more and more convicted criminals.

But what's the point? The more crowded the prison system becomes, the lower its quality. Even if you do not care how miserably convicts live — and God knows, there are some it is impossible to wish well — you cannot deny that the less thoughtful and creative prisoners are, the less likely they are ever to turn anybody into a useful or at least harmless citizen.

Riots and reports tell us clearly that overstressed prisons are noisy, angry, frustrating places. The morale of prison officers is low. What should be a challenging, interesting job is regarded by most people as the last thing in the world they would want to do. A profession which needs strong and wise recruits is failing to attract enough of them. I mean no disrespect to good prison officers: only to criminals who are not a physical danger to the public, we could better contain those who are — killers, gangsters, child molesters, violent robbers. Prison can do this only if it has time and scope and staff to deal with them, not only toughly but intelligently. There is no point in dumping them in places of containment clogged with fine-defaulters and shoplifters and bent lawyers and Ernest Saunders.

To improve jail, we need other punishments. Some could be imaginative: I admit to a soft spot for the American judge who is always condemning people to wash windows and apologise to their wives in public on the town hall steps. Community

service orders could be much more widely used and thoughtfully devised, and administered so rigorously that nobody would think them a soft option. Eric Cantona did everything more good by teaching children football than he would have done sulking in a cell. The courts could be given authority, and the Probation Service funds, to make lives uncomfortable and restricted in a dozen other ways than jail: service, curfews, restriction of movement, even tagging. One of the few creative ideas to have come out of Michael Howard's Home Office is the withdrawal of driving licences for crimes not related to motoring.

We must get rid of the idea that prison is the only serious punishment for every kind of crime. Clear the decks and enable prisons to work on the worst criminals, mainly the violent. Prison should be not an end, but a beginning: a place where the heaviest disapproval of society is combined with its most strenuous efforts to persuade and enforce change, both through education and through refusal to tolerate antisocial speech and behaviour.

Clear out the inappropriate inmates and prisons could be both stricter and more creative. Drugs could be far better controlled, not only by a higher ratio of staff to prisoners, but by a less compromising attitude. Physical searches have been curtailed for reasons of human dignity, resulting in an influx of smuggled drugs, but if the only people inside were those who had been violent, or incited and managed violence, it might be more acceptable to enforce such small humiliations.

Prison, at present, involves a lot of aimless hanging around, a few hours of work for the lucky, and the supremacy of a drugy, boasting, macho prisoner culture. If the numbers were drastically reduced, the balance could swing back to a culture imposed by those who (as our representatives) run the prisons. Imagine a humane but determined, professionally respected, well paid cadre of officers with a status comparable to policemen and teachers. Imagine if in a criminal life prison did not mean the point where one sank further into criminal culture, but an enforced return to the values and behaviour of the mainstream. Penal reform is not irrelevant to the moral renaissance Frances Lawrence asks for. It must be an integral part of it.

Libby Purves

on news of Flat heir Giovanni Agnelli's engagement to a British girl, Frances Avery Howe.

The Caccia, with premises in a Renaissance palace once given by Napoleon to the Bonaparte family, is mooted as a possible venue for the reception. Giovanni only just scraped into the club after members tried to blackball him because his blood was not sufficiently blue (John Paul Getty Sr was similarly rebuffed). Only when Giovanni's uncle Gianni, the present Fiat honcho, threatened to resign was the young nouveau admitted.

THIS jaw-dropping depiction of Diana, Princess of Wales, in the work of André Durand, specialist in saccharine portraiture. Entitled *Pizza Diana*, it will be unveiled in a west London restaurant next week by no less authoritative a figure in the world of arts than Sir David Putnam, a regular diner at the haunt.

Lack of space prevents me from displaying the full picture, which shows Diana being presented with a new culinary concoction — the *Pizza Diana*, a "medley" of coloured peppers, mushrooms and cheese — by the restaurant's suave owner. It's hard to say why the Princess is depicted as a clown, but Durand



Diana and the pizza

assures me that it was necessary, as was the striking shade of bright blue eye-shadow. Diana's office was unaware of the unveiling. "We have not seen this, or any other of these pictures," came the reply.

P.H.S

Action to redeem society

Michael Howard

honours Philip

Lawrence's legacy

Events that tear at the heart of the nation can lead to a change of mood and to action that changes behaviour. Such an event was the tragic murder of Philip Lawrence, and the Prime Minister has made it clear that the Government will now play its part to the full in translating his widow's manifesto, published in yesterday's *Times*, into practical proposals.

Already we have taken further action to deal with violent and persistent offenders. We are setting up secure centres to provide a disciplined and secure environment in which a concentrated effort will be made to make them see the error of their ways. We also intend to extend tagging to young offenders, to keep them at home when they might otherwise be making mischief on the streets.

From January 1, it will be an offence to sell a knife to a person under 16 years old. We have banned altogether particular examples of dangerous knives, where it has been possible to define them in a way that distinguishes them from ordinary knives with legitimate uses. We are ready to extend the ban to other examples. Additionally, the police have been given the same powers to stop and search on school premises as they have already in public places. And the ban on handguns above 22 calibre — and on all handguns in the home — will produce the restrictions on gun-owning that so many people long to see.

We must also look to the longer term. In particular, we must act to prevent children becoming offenders in the first place. For example, there is a clear link between truancy and classroom indiscipline and juvenile delinquency. The Government is taking firm action on both fronts. Schools are now under great pressure to reduce truancy, thanks to the publication of school figures measuring their performance in this key area. In addition, this autumn, legislation will be introduced to make it easier for schools to deal firmly with children whose behaviour jeopardises the education of others.

Since the beginning of the year, a small group of ministers has been working together to see what can be done to identify those young people who are most at risk of becoming offenders and to turn them away from crime. The group has been looking at various ways for local agencies and voluntary bodies to work together to prevent young people being sucked into crime. There are many examples on which to build. For example, the Dalston Youth Project in Hackney trains volunteers to befriend, advise and support 19 to 19-year-olds who are at risk of offending or who have already offended. The Home Office is funding an extension of the scheme to cover 11 to 15-year-olds.

In Milton Keynes, a Young People's Befriender Scheme pairs up young people who have been in trouble with trained volunteer mentors, who help them to deal with their problems and improve their self-esteem and social skills. These examples show the valuable contribution ordinary members of the public can make.

Much can also be done by confronting young offenders with the effect of their actions on others. The Hampshire police are developing this approach, as are several social services departments. Young people are made, for the first time, up to just what their behaviour can do to their victims. They and their families are encouraged to accept responsibility for their action and for putting things right.

Young citizens too have an important part to play. More than 1,400 Youth Crime Prevention Panels are around the country now spread the message of crime prevention in schools and beyond. I intend to invite youth organisations to a meeting so as to discuss ways for them to contribute to the creation of a world in which good citizenship is the norm, and violence is regarded by everyone with outrage.

Of course, the bonds of good citizenship are not confined to the young. There are now 150,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes across the country, putting into practice the obligation of citizenship and helping to create a neighbourly society. So there is a strong foundation on which to build. But there is much more to be done.

One widely shared worry is the influence of media violence. In the Criminal Justice Act of 1994, we tightened the controls on videos and computer games. We requested the classification body to take into account the harm that these could do when deciding what to license and for what age group. Nor can we ignore the level of violence on television. We need to see what more can be done to reduce it.

The ideals of citizenship are worth striving for. The Government intends to establish an Annual Philip Lawrence Memorial Award to recognise outstanding achievements of good citizenship by the young. We shall discuss the details with Frances and her children, and ensure that Philip Lawrence's example lives on.

The author is the Home Secretary.

No briefs

THE PRESSURE of the forthcoming election campaign is exacting its toll on Cherie Booth, QC, the wife of Tony Blair. Talk among the Rumpoles is of the difficulty she faces in securing briefs in the run-up to the election.

The clerk in her chambers at Gray's Inn, London, refuses to discuss the matter, but as the campaign approaches I'm told she is unlikely to have the workload that she used to enjoy.

Not only has she a high profile, which deters some solicitors from approaching her, but she is expected to become increasingly involved in the campaign. "She is totally committed to seeing Tony Blair elected Prime Minister," says one source, "and everybody thinks she would give up some of her workload to see it through."

Those in the trade say that Mrs Blair, who has been reported to earn up to £250,000 a year, has no cases lasting more than four weeks on her books.

There will also be family pressures. Although the Blairs have a nanny, she is expected to spend more time at home as Tony stomps the streets.

Ever the diligent researcher, the Panorama presenter Edward Stourton found himself in a small bar in Colorado while investigating next week's programme on Bill Clinton. He ordered Rocky Mountain Oysters from the menu, anticipating something in a shell, perhaps with a lemon wedge. Instead, they turned out to be bull's "parts", sliced and breaded.



He said that he was better than me at Citizenship, Miss

— a local delicacy. "Rather like chicken," was his brave verdict.

Braggadocio

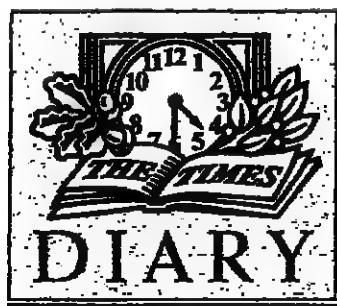
NEVER one to hide his light under a bushel, Melvyn Bragg has been fixing the propaganda for his latest television venture in his own favour. When the press releases for the current Channel 4 musical series *Leaving Home* hit his desk, a tremor ran through his bouffant. His own involvement had been underplayed.

A new paragraph had to be inserted containing the line: "Leaving Home was originated as an idea by Melvyn Bragg, who is an executive producer of the series. Michael Grade and later Simon Rattle enthusiastically embraced the idea, taking three years for the series to reach the screen."

"There were a few minor hiccups along the way," concedes Bragg. "There was a mix-up which was quickly sorted out."

Car daze

LORD MONTAGU of Beaulieu's 70th birthday party on Saturday night, held at his Hampshire pile, took the theme "If music be the food of love, play on". For the occasion, Montagu wore a shirt with



musical notes, a pair of trousers decorated with wine labels and a huge Carmen Miranda hat. The eclectic guest-list of 800 included Prince Edward, Sophie Rhys-Jones, Ken Russell and Lord Brabazon of Tara, king of the Cresta Run.

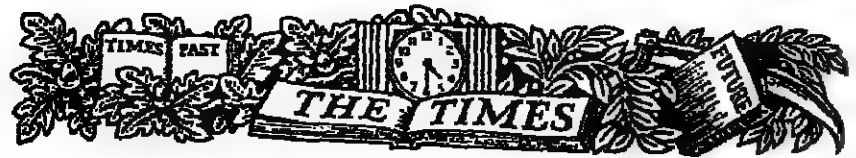
"It's all a bit of a haze now," said Lord Montagu yesterday, "but I do remember retreating behind a curtain after midnight to sit in my 1909 Rolls-Royce and smoke a cigar. Unfortunately I was caught and taken back to the party, where we danced until four to the music of my dear old friend George Melly."

Club fiat

GRAPPA glasses have been dinking at Rome's most exclusive gentlemen's retreat, the Caccia Club,

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PULPIT AND POLITICS

A Catholic contribution to a widening debate

The boundaries between pulpit and politics have rarely been so permeable this century as they are now. Politicians have been competing to appropriate parts of the Christian message for their parties like pilgrims grasping at fragments of the True Cross. Yesterday the Roman Catholic Church, having seen territory traditionally religious colonised by MPs, sought to make a provocative incursion onto the political battleground. Its paper, *The Common Good*, is a thoughtful appraisal of current political trends which refrains from endorsing any party but which is likely to give particular encouragement to Labour. The tone of argument is mature, and welcome. But not all the conclusions are necessarily consonant with the principles which the Church exists to uphold and the beliefs of some of its most dedicated adherents.

There will be resistance from some quarters to the idea of any Church, let alone the Roman Catholic, intervening before a general election with its own manifesto. There is a resilient strain in British public life, from free-thinking Whigs such as Charles James Fox to recent radicals of Left and Right like Michael Foot and Alan Clark, which abhors piety in politics. For the last hundred years the most electorally successful parties in continental Europe have, however, had Catholic social teaching at their heart.

That teaching was, perhaps, best encapsulated by Pius XI in *Quadragesimo Anno* which argued that "the right ordering of economic life cannot be left to a free competition of forces". The Roman Catholic Church is opposed to any materialist doctrine but it has never made the mistake of treating communism as an equal evil with capitalism. However, the collapse of the former has left the Church at odds with the triumphalist expression of the latter. That was apparent in Pope John Paul II's 1991

encyclical *Centesimus Annus* and is reflected in every page of *The Common Good*. In its content and in particular its warmth towards a minimum wage, its invocation of "stakeholding", its wariness towards the extension of market disciplines in health and education and its support for trade unions, it is not congenial reading for robust free-marketiers.

The document's insistence on respect for human dignity is welcome but the policies it embraces may not always be the best guarantee of the goals it sets. The point has been well made, not least by William Rees-Mogg in these pages, that support for a minimum wage actually increases it by creating unemployment. The path to the poorhouse can often be paved with good intentions. Similarly, "stakeholding" can become a cover for the hampering of the competitive strength of a company, which in turn undermines its capacity to recruit.

One significant aspect of the document is the balance, almost Jesuitical in its ingenuity, between proclaiming the importance of what it sees as the right to life of the unborn child while insisting that no single issue should govern the voter's choice. The salience of abortion as an issue has disfigured American politics; it is reassuring to see it treated with such care here.

There is certainly a deeply felt need for moral voices in the nation's political debate. The scale and sincerity of the response to Frances Lawrence's manifesto in *The Times* yesterday is clear proof that her call for ethical renewal reflected a public yearning. *The Common Good* also speaks to that need. Although its prescriptions may not all be right for this fallen world, and the Church's eyes should always be fixed on the next, the document is a worthwhile contribution to a widening debate.

A PROVISIONAL VERDICT

Japan has voted for the LDP but not for its bad old ways

Three years ago Japanese voters, disgusted by a series of corruption scandals, broke the Liberal Democratic Party's 38-year monopoly on power in elections whose main theme was the imperative of cleaning the political house. Four Prime Ministers, five coalition Cabinets and a confidence-shattering recession later, the LDP appears again to dominate Japan's political horizon. In Sunday's elections to the Japanese Diet it came within 12 seats of a majority — not enough to govern alone, but enough to control the political agenda in whatever coalition Ryutaro Hashimoto, the LDP leader, cobble together.

The hope that electoral reforms introduced since 1993 would produce a working two-party political system has not been borne out. The New Frontier Party (Shinshintō) headed by Ichiro Ozawa, whose defection from the LDP brought about its fall in 1993, lost not only seats but its bid to establish itself as the undisputed leader of the Opposition. Yet despite the failure of a united Opposition to emerge and the resurgence of the LDP's formidable grassroots party machine, it would be wrong to conclude from Sunday's result either that Japan has returned to the old political mould, or that the public has lost its appetite for political and economic reforms.

The dominating Mr Ozawa paid the price of running a troubled political house, up to a dozen of whose members could now, in the opportunistic traditions of Japanese politics at their worst, defect back to the LDP. He also lost ground because voters did not trust his grand promises to cut taxes by a massive \$162 billion when it was unclear how they were to be financed. Above all, his New Frontier Party no longer strikes them as particularly new, or genuinely radical. That aura has been appropriated by the newborn Democratic Party, established only last month on a "citizens first" platform,

which secured a remarkable 52 of the total 500 parliamentary seats. As Mr Hashimoto admits, the LDP has yet to recover the voters' confidence. It is back only on sufferance, and only in the absence of a convincing alternative. Its mandate is anything but solid; the turnout was the lowest in Japan's postwar history, with four out of ten voters staying away from the polling booths. But after the messy coalitions of the past few years — for which the LDP's partners in the outgoing coalition, the Socialists and the New Harbinger Party, were severely punished — the country could be said to have opted for a period of temporary stability.

The LDP gained ground where its partners lost for a single reason. It was judged the party most likely to muster sufficient strength to deliver on the pledges to deregulate the economy, shake up the bureaucracy, consolidate Japan's economic upturn and tackle the problems of an ageing society. The fact that these were obligatory items on the platform of every party in this election, other than Japan's dead-in-the-wool Communist Party, shows that the reform agenda is still very much alive.

Mr Hashimoto must now assemble a working majority, but this will involve more unsavoury compromise. For a start, he needs the Socialists on board, since they hold the balance of power in the Upper House; but that means teaming up again with a party widely despised for abandoning its convictions for the sake of sharing power. The LDP has been given a chance to prove that it is no longer the creature of Japan's strong corporate and bureaucratic interests. It is expected to provide firm leadership. If it fails on either count, the electorate will be unforgiving — and by the next elections the Democrats, the new standard-bearers of reform, could have evolved into the political alternative that has so far eluded Japan.

BALLOONS OVER BRUSSELS

Belgium has lost its innocence without finding a role

Never have Belgians been so united. Across linguistic divides, party loyalties and cultural boundaries, thousands of Belgians took to the streets in anger, frustration and shame. The march through Brussels on Sunday was one of the largest any European city has seen: more than 320,000 people — one in every 35 Belgians — filled the main streets in a silent, dignified demand for justice. There were no slogans or scuffles: only a sea of white balloons represented the innocence of the children murdered by the paedophile ring which has brought Belgium to the brink of a moral and political crisis.

The demonstration, more than any of the spontaneous strikes and withering speeches of the past two months, has exerted a pressure on the Government that is irresistible. Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, promised the parents of the murdered children that he would create a national centre for missing children and that nothing would obstruct a full investigation into the girls' deaths. More significantly, he promised that Belgium would end the political appointment of judges.

The sad thing about this whole sorry affair is that it has taken a series of sordid murders to bring together a nation that for too long has wasted its energies in intercommunal bickering. There was at the weekend a solidarity on the streets of Brussels and an assertion of common humanity that rose above the

squalid deals of a political class that has failed the nation. What ordinary Belgians are demanding is not only justice for the murdered children, but an end to the cosy political relationships that have created a system where the protection of cronies is more important than exposure of wrongdoing.

All countries suffer, from time to time, murders so horrible that they produce a wave of public revulsion and self-doubt. Such cases only have political consequences, however, if there is a perception that they were caused by, or were symptomatic of, failures in the political system. This is why the Dutroux case is causing such an earthquake in Belgian life. There is no suggestion that child murders are more common in Belgium than elsewhere. But there is a widespread belief that too many scandals have gone unanswered, too many crimes unsolved. Belgians have traditionally had narrow horizons, limited, as a result of battles fought over their territory, to their families and immediate neighbourhood. Provincialism is a trait that has been accentuated by decentralisation, as a result of linguistic quarrels, that has left the central government virtually powerless. But Belgian society remains steeped in the precepts of mainstream Roman Catholicism. Last weekend, those moral certainties challenged the political establishment to live up to its responsibilities. Belgium is waiting for an answer.

Press report of barred evidence

From Mr William Clegg, QC

Sir, When Colin Stagg was found not guilty of murdering Rachel Nickell on Wimbledon Common he might have hoped that the verdict would be accepted by the police and the press. If so that hope was in vain.

The material published in *The Mail on Sunday* (report, October 21) demands correction.

The case for the Crown at trial against Colin Stagg was based upon a psychological profile of the killer which was alleged to match him. During a five-month police undercover operation designed to obtain a genuine confession all that was obtained from Colin Stagg was a confession to a crime that never took place and a number of details about the murder of Rachel Nickell that could have been proved false.

The conversations between Colin Stagg and the undercover police officer were ruled inadmissible by the trial judge and could not be relied upon as evidence from which to base a psychological profile, even assuming such evidence had been admissible. No other evidence was the subject of a ruling by the trial judge.

It was the prosecution who then decided to offer no evidence and the public can be certain that the decision was not made lightly. The reason no evidence was offered was because the evidence could not and did not prove Colin Stagg guilty of the killing.

Having spent 14 months in prison before being acquitted by the due process of law is he now to be the subject of a campaign by a newspaper designed to suggest his guilt?

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM CLEGG
(Leading defence counsel,
Regina v Stagg),
3 Hare Court, Temple, EC4,
October 21.

Cheltenham College

From Mr and Mrs Keith Douglas

Sir, You reported on October 17 (see also report, October 19, early editions; *Diary*, October 21) that the Cheltenham College headmaster, Peter Wilkes, has been forced to resign by the college council, apparently because of disappointing A-level results. On the same day you published a letter from the Headmaster of Ampleforth College advising that some prominent Old Boys were distinctly not among the highest academic achievers.

As Cheltenham College parents we are appalled at the enforced early retirement of Peter Wilkes. The recent A-level results were disappointing — perhaps a reflection of going too far in lowering entry standards to the Sixth Form — but this is being addressed. At the same time, the college has just achieved its best ever GCSE results.

Peter Wilkes has fostered professional and caring attitudes amongst his staff. Talent is nurtured, and youngsters mature believing in themselves and their abilities. Most importantly, the college seems to be a very happy place.

League tables have their use, but they should not be seen as the sole arbiter of achievement. Are we now to treat headmasters like managers of football teams and move them on when the going gets rough? Perhaps then we should place some of the college council on the transfer list.

Yours faithfully,
K. M. DOUGLAS,
M. L. DOUGLAS,
Red Dormers, Oakley Road,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Visiting opera praised

From Mrs Chris Vivas

Sir, I was dismayed to read your opinion's review (October 15) of the Romanian National Opera's visit to the Hippodrome Theatre, Bristol.

I attended the company's performance of *Norma* on October 10 and before curtain-up pondered how long it had been since the provinces had had a chance to see *Norma*. Twenty years is the answer, when it was done by Welsh National Opera.

Your critic makes destructive remarks on the performance of the Romanian company, but does not address the lack of choice for provincial opera-goers who want to see grand opera. ENO and Covent Garden have not put their noses out of London into the provinces for over 20 years.

Norma at Bristol was cheered to the echo. I hope the Romanian National Opera enjoy enormous success with their tour.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS VIVAS,
2 Roman Crescent,
Swindon, Wiltshire.

Thought for today

From Mrs Anne Atkins

Sir, I like Mr Lawlor's suggestion (letter, October 19) that *Thought for the Day* should consist of a period of silent reflection on a passage from the Bible, the Talmud, or the Koran.

I am confident that, depending on the passages chosen, a great deal more controversy could be generated than we have seen this past week.

Yours,
ANNE ATKINS,
St Dionis's Vicarage,
18 Parsons Green, SW6,
October 19.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Flawed' funding damages NHS

From Mr C. B. T. Adams, FRCS

Sir, No one doubts the Government has increased its overall spending on the NHS in recent years (Conservative conference report, October 12). However, the level of government funding is such that increasingly the NHS is providing an emergency service; patients needing elective surgery are having to wait longer, or go without, or pay for it. In five years I suspect the NHS will be the NES — National Emergency Service.

However, what concerns many such as myself is how the available money is used. The NHS accounting rules would not be tolerated in any business. They penalise the efficient and prevent successful departments responding fully to demand. This produces profound loss of morale, something that is not easily reversed.

The first flawed rule is the 3 per cent annual "efficiency" penalty, through which every department must make savings in costs, now in its 13th year. Obviously it penalises the efficient departments first, rather than if everyone were required to lose half a stone each year: those starting at a lean eight stone would by now be dead, while those originally weighing 20 stone would be healthier.

The second rule is that "prices (to NHS purchasers) must follow costs". In other words, no surplus (or profit) can be accumulated to create capital to expand the facilities of successful units trying to respond to market forces, unless special permission (little known and rarely granted) is obtained from the central NHS Management Executive.

Discord on college composition rule

From Professor Alexander Goehr

Sir, In the last 50 years musical composition has come to occupy an increasingly important role in musical education, from GCSE to PhD.

Although there is a line to be drawn between pure musicalological and historical research and free creativity, it has been demonstrated again and again that the one thrives off the other and that considerable overlap exists.

Consequently we have witnessed a gradual increase in the cultivation of musical composition in schools and universities and employment of composers as teachers, not only with the intention of "making composers", but of contributing uniquely to the wider understanding of music.

Now the Humanities Research Board of the British Academy (as opposed to the Higher Education Funding Councils, which are including university composition within the current research assessment exercise) has decided to draw a distinction between composition and research.

It says in a letter to universities "that even when composition is predicated upon analytical, historical and theoretical knowledge of existing music, that does not turn it into research", and consequently has withdrawn funding for the study of composition at graduate level.

This extraordinary belief has been reached without the benefit of direct consultation with any of the practitioners in the field and will have the result of closing British students of composition out of educational institutions after their first degrees and depriving of graduate students all the UK composers who are employed in British universities. Many of them have expressed support for this letter.

At a time when in the majority of countries where music is taught in universities, and following the lead of the US, composition is increasingly recognised as lying at the centre of our understanding and research, this seems a remarkable understatement and one wonders whether it will be justified by the negligible savings that will result from it.

Yours etc,
ALEXANDER GOEHR,
HARRISON BIRTWISTLE
(King's College London),
JOHN CASKEN
(Manchester University),
PETER DICKINSON
(Goldsmiths College, London),
SEBASTIAN FORBES
(Surrey University),
NICOLA LEFANTU
(York University),
University of Cambridge,
Faculty of Music,
University Music School,
West Road, Cambridge,
October 18.

Fall in Labour lead

From Mr Frank Allau

Sir, The nine-point drop in Labour's lead over the Conservatives shown in yesterday's *Sunday Times* NOP poll (report, October 21) substantiates the warnings by many active Labour Party members.

It shows that in the ABs, the better-off middle class, the Tories have recovered a 34-point lead compared with 11 points a month earlier. Amongst skilled manual workers Labour is ahead by 24 points and amongst unskilled workers by 41 points. That is where Labour's greatest support lies.

The way ahead for Labour is to satisfy the needs of millions of people who don't vote at all: nine million in the 1992 election plus two million who were not even on the election register, mostly poverty-stricken, repressed and alienated.

There are today 4.7 million people existing on sweatshirts wages, ten million pensioners, two million "officially" unemployed and seven million trade unionists, and, in addition, their families. Their votes can be earned and won by looking after their interests instead of giving priority to the upper-middle class.

This would not only be vote-winning: it is morally right that Labour should help those in greatest need.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAU
(Labour MP for Salford East, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester,
October 21.

On the run

From Mr Julian Ellis

Sir, It is not Mr M. Gee (letter, October 16) who is missing anything when he queries the wisdom of placing a prisoner the police describe as dangerous in an open prison to prepare him for release. It is the police who often make statements based on out-of-date information in such cases.

I know nothing of the circumstances of the case Mr Gee refers to. In my experience, however, when a prisoner serving a life sentence has made useful progress after courses, counselling, treatment and the like, and after years of incarceration, all the reports that have been prepared on him or her are submitted to a Home Office minister for approval before the inmate can be moved to an open prison.

The work which is carried out is considerable, and the decisions as to whether to move a life to open conditions are on the side of caution, sometimes excessive caution as seen through the eyes of boards of visitors.

Unfortunately, police spokesmen often do not seem to understand the remarkable transformation of many life-sentence prisoners which not infrequently follows highly skilled work in our prisons.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN ELLIS
(Chairman,
The Association of Members of
Boards of Visitors, 1992-95),
2 Arnold Lane, Gedling, Nottingham,
October 16.

Referendum issue

From Mr K. A. Gottlieb

Sir, It is not difficult to attract devotees to a single-purpose party: the simple purity is seductive and there are no distractions such as reality, responsibility and the like.

The Government's commitment to a referendum before a decision on European monetary union must surely represent the optimum attainment of the Referendum Party's aim. Votes for that party will mostly be diverted from the Conservatives. Although new Labour's view of Europe is unclear, socialists tend to be fundamentally sympathetic to federalism.

The only logical position for the Referendum Party is to back the Conservatives and hope that Major gets a large enough majority to examine vigorously all the questions Europe raises.

Yours faithfully,
KIM A. GOTTLIEB,
London and Bath Estates plc,
135 Hammersmith Road,
West Kensington, W14,
October 21.

Bullying in schools

From Mr Fitzroy Ponniah

Sir, Your report "Sikh pupil found dead after writing of school misery" (October 17) is very sad and disturbing: sad because of the loss of a priceless life and apparently a very bright one, as his poems indicated; disturbing, as the growth of bullying in school is a symptom of the weakening of emphasis on development of character in education. This lack of character is seen in society as a whole, as evidenced by the sleaze investigation in Parliament (report, October 15).

Vijay Singh's poems and life point to an erosion of traditional priorities which should be a matter for great concern in this era of change.

Yours faithfully,
FITZROY PONNIAH,
72 Hazelwood Road, E17,
October 17.

Nobel prizewinner

From Mr Christopher J. Nutt

Sir, Of course James Mirrlees is correct in thinking that there is an optimum level of taxation (letter, October 14), just as there is of other extortions — including physical torture. But how depressing to devote enough of a life as to earn a Nobel Prize to researching the exact degree to which you can push such a dismal creed.

In most walks of life pressure has been abandoned as a means of getting the most out of people — encouragement produces much better results. Is it not time that tax experts caught up?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER J. NUTT,
8 Cambray Place,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 16.

Business letters, page 31

Art of illusion?

From Dr Denis Cashman

Sir, Mr Stephen Walters (letter, October 16) is mistaken in assuming that a piece of writing must rhyme and scan to qualify for the title of "poem".

The *Chambers English Dictionary* definition is "a composition of high beauty of thought or language and artistic form, typically, but not necessarily, in verse", and you yourself in a recent leading article (September 18: see also leading article, "Live Poets Society", October 10) drew attention to Housman's admission that while he could no more define a poem than a terrier could define a rat, he recognised it at once when he saw it.

I make no judgment on Jenny Joseph's poem, though I much enjoyed it, but from the vast treasury of lyric verse I would suggest that Mr Walters read some of Helen Waddell's Medieval Latin lyrics: few rhymes but a veritable cornucopia of the loveliest poetry ever written.

I am, Sir, your obedient and metrical servant,
DENIS CASHMAN,
4 Derwent Court,
Cullercoats, Tyne and Wear.

Waving not drowning?

From Mr Niels Kelsted

Sir, On page 3 today (later editions), a report on Mick Jagger and Jerry Hall informed me that their marriage "appeared to be foundering". By the time I had turned to the back page, however, I discovered that the marriage now "appeared to be foundering" — a step in the right direction, I'm sure you'll agree.

Yours flounderingly,
N. KELSTED,
52 Winchester Road, St Margarets,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
October 16.

Keeping one's hair on

From Mrs Georgette Behar

Sir, Once again I see you have used the derogatory term "blue rinse" when describing women of a certain age, usually Tory, though in this case (October 17) in Richard Morrison's review of Sir Cliff Richard in *Wuthering Heights*.

I personally "maintain" my dark-brown hair and none of my friends with white hair have blue rinses. Stop it.

Sincerely,
GEORGETTE BEHAR,
54 Hanover Gate Mansions,
Park Road, NW1.

Steady accumulator stays ahead of the game



TWO months in, and the leader for the past five weeks is still there. Mr J. Staszewicz, of Ramsey, Isle of Man, retains his slender lead, now of four points, over a chasing pack in the race for £50,000 in The Times Interactive Team Football game.

Mr Staszewicz has been a steady rather than spectacular accumulator; this explains why he has remained the overall leader, ahead of some ITF selectors who have scored more heavily some weeks, but fallen away in others.

The weekly winner is Mr J. Decastrey, of Hemel Hempstead, who wins the £250 prize. He scored 34 points this week with his team Robin's Barry Army, with Jason Dodd, the Southampton defender, his highest individual scorer.

Mr Decastrey's team is:

Goalkeeper
L Miklosko (West Ham)

Full backs
L Dixon (Arsenal)
J Dodd (Southampton)

Central defenders
S Campbell (Tottenham)
U Ehiogu (Aston Villa)

Midfield players
R Di Matteo (Chelsea)
G Donis (Blackburn)
B Laudrup (Rangers)
A Thorn (Celtic)

Strikers
F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough)
D Saunders (Nottm Forest)

Manager
B Robson (Middlesbrough)



The return of Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, from injury, could make him an attractive double points-earner



If your team could be doing better, with your players lacking form and fitness, you can use the ITF transfer system which allows you to change up

to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually loaned or transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or the Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF
All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, the Scottish League premier division and Tynes Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Saves goal
Saves penalty	1pt	All players
Full back/Central defender	3pts	Appearance
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Scores hat-trick
Saves goal	3pts	Manager
Midfield player	1pt	Team wins
Keeps clean sheet*	2pts	Team draws
Saves goal	1pt	Team loses

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	2pts	Booked
Concedes goal	1pt	Concedes penalty
Full back/Central defender	1pt	Misses penalty
Concedes goal	1pt	Saves own goal
All players	3pts	Manager
Sent off	3pts	Team loses



PLAYING ABROAD?

An unbelievable offer starting in *The Times* on Monday October 28

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

CHANGING TIMES

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF
Call 0891 866 968
If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom call 44 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). You will need your ten-digit selector PIN, which you will have to tap in, not speak. Follow the simple instructions and tap in the five-digit codes of the players you are transferring.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £35 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Player out: Club []

Player in: Club []

THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

32905 ...	IN	Southampton	£1.50m
42511 ...	OUT	Sheffield Wednesday	£3.00m
52904 ...	LOANED	West Ham United	£2.00m

LOANED PLAYERS

E. McGoldrick (from Arsenal to Manchester City, one week); M. Taylor (Derby to Crewe, one week); D. Walsall (Derby to Manchester City, three weeks); G. Holland (Newcastle to Birmingham, two weeks); S. Angell (Sunderland to Stockport, one week); T. Wright (Nottm Forest to Reading, two weeks); R. van der Laan (Derby to Walsingham, three weeks); S. Fitzgerald (Widnes to Millwall, three weeks); M. Gabbidon (Derby to Birmingham, three weeks); M. Williams (Sheffield Wednesday to Huddersfield, four weeks).

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	NST Monks	(J. Staszewicz)	206	111	Friends 36	(R. Fyfe)	169	211	Over The Moon FC	(no name)	165
2	Skyforest	(A. Burton)	202	112	E	(M. Corless)	169	212	Wansstead Wimmers	(I. Roskell)	165
3	Sophie And Sam	(G. Foster)	198	113	Nobby 11	(J. Brown)	169	213	Wansstead Wimmers	(H. Gray)	165
4	Gengsters	(A. Lane)	197	114	Wether's Wanderers	(D. Wetherall)	169	214	Gullit's Wonders	(C. Hand)	165
5	John Hunt Taunton D	(J. Hunt)	196	115	Ginger FC	(C. Armstrong)	169	215	Bob	(M. Haswell)	165
6	John Hunt Taunton H	(J. Hunt)	192	116	Triangle Top Tan	(J. Bellamy)	169	216	Suburbs United 5	(M. Larcombe)	165
7	John Hunt Taunton F	(J. Hunt)	192	117	T 35	(J. Bassett)	169	217	Suburbs United 3	(D. Curtis)	165
8	Noah's Ark	(G. P. Dolan)	191	118	Glen Duffers	(S. Wilson)	169	218	Den's Devils	(J. McCallion)	165
9	1st Elf	(K. J. Burns)	190	119	Fendon United	(C. Cowen)	169	219	Thompson's XI	(G. Thompson)	165
10	Rigby's Roarers	(A. Rigby)	189	120	White Feathers	(M. Catchpole)	169	220	Oystre 1	(G. O. Emoghene)	165
10	Schofield For Goals	(K. Booth)	189	121	Gomark City	(M. P. Standfield)	169	221	Utd Forever Eldo	(E. Khadadi)	165
10	Brain's Team	(B. Howes)	189	122	Glen Win World Cup	(R. Geary)	169	222	Mum's 1st XI	(J. O'Connell)	165
13	John Hunt Taunton E	(J. Hunt)	188	123	Slaz United	(D. J. Millie)	169	223	Real Ale Madrid 2	(M. Smith)	165
13	Dour Rangers 3	(I. Clayton)	188	124	Solo Bales	(S. Kilney)	169	224	Gestalt	(R. Rowe)	165
13	Nomads	(N. Brown)	188	125	FC Big Hands	(A. Martin)	169	225	12 Angry Men	(D. Cook)	165
16	Lesley's Legmen	(M. Jones)	187	126	Freebie United	(P. S. Bonnett)	169	226	L	(A. Hynes)	165
17	Jones Boys Three	(B. Jones)	186	127	Red Star Belgrade	(R. Keenan)	169	227	Alban Harries XI	(A. Hynes)	165
17	Purple Rain	(B. Schill)	186	128	Apex Millies	(J. P. J. P. J.)	169	228	Carl Michael Rangers	(R. D. Walden)	165
17	Pleasant Pipers 10	(T. Feathly)	186	129	Slaz United	(M. Jackson)	169	229	The Simpsons	(J. Simpson)	165
20	Nobby 33	(J. Brown)	185	130	West Wanderers	(S. West)	169	230	No Midfield	(J. B. Portwood)	165
20	Tulip's Tops	(J. Brown)	185	131	G. Money FC	(G. Samuels)	169	231	Procelain Gods	(P. Ryan)	165
22	Mean Machine	(P. Ford)	184	132	David's First XI	(P. Hands)	169	232	Gunning Fox Glory	(J. B. Portwood)	165
22	Beeston Celtic	(B. Barry McGivern)	184	133	Canon's Hotshots	(D. Cannon)	169	233	T 20	(A. Bartholomew)	165
24	Sky Times III	(J. Brown)	182	134	Foreign Legion	(A. Brown)	169	234	Euro Paulo 1	(P. O'Connell)	165
25	Nobby	(A. Boyland)	181	135	Jason's Boys Four	(J. Murray)	169	235	Ball Watchers	(A. Spence)	165
25	Pin Ups Two	(P. Tustler)	181	136	Arvi's Alstars	(A. Bangh)	169	236	Spence Town	(J. Zaki)	165
25	Hopeful Hotshots	(N. Rimmer)	181	137	Perry's FC	(A. Williams)	169	237	Zig Zag Zak 25	(R. Larcombe)	165
29	Daggers	(V. Cox)	180	138	Row Ltd	(J. J. Burns)	169	238	Suburbs United 3	(R. McCallion)	165
29	Ravell On Toast	(J. Swales)	180	139	Heart Kart XI	(J. Kent)	169	239	Downs Destroyers	(J. Palmer)	165
29	JS August Monthly 1	(M. Jones)	180	140	Taslin	(I. Pigeon)	169	240	Lucy's Lions	(S. Doggett)	165
33	Jones Boys 8	(S. Miller)	179	141	Team A	(A. Lane)	169	241	R + N Flashboys	(R. Brown)	165
33	ST Ud	(M. O'Brien)	179	142	Gauntlet FC	(C. J. Eldred)	169	242	Totted One	(E. Kasky)	165
33	Storm	(P. Mills)	179	143	Dead Men Can Manage	(R. E. H. Tunnicliffe)	169	243	Abdell's Revenge	(D. Fitchie)	165
33	Jane's Giants	(J. Longton)	179	144	Zig Zag Zak 5	(Z. Ahmed)	169	244	Lynne's Lions	(J. Horne)	165
37	PJ Thistle	(R. Newbould)	178	145	Slaz United	(S. Boyton)	169	245	Foreign Flyers	(A. Davies)	165
37	Athletico Storm	(P. Mills)	178	146	Lowest Mergers	(G. Wales)	169	246	Tim's Tigers	(T. Jordan)	165
37	Inconfinables	(L. A. Tomlinson)	178	147	Brainbrows United	(M. Sladden)	169	247	Concrete Bananas	(S. Mingle)	165
37	Refiners Raiders	(P. M. Handley)	178	148	Octopus 1st Champ	(S. Fraser)	169	248	Well Hard Ltd	(J. Davies)	165
37	Bumblers XI	(S. Jones)	178	149	Kinky Imports	(M. Peck)	169	249	All Lugged Up	(J. Braidwood)	165
42	United In Footy	(G. Atton)	177	150	Def Con 3	(J. James)	169	250	Col 1	(C. Milner)	165
42	Fortune Sandwich	(A. J. Finkel)	177	151	Slaz United	(J. Brown)	169	251	Elle's Felles	(M. Polders)	165
42	Over The Moon FC	(I. Roskell)	177	152	Nobby 14	(J. Clayton)	169	252	Alencia FC	(A. Stiffens)	165
42	Aldercote Villa	(M. Jones)	177	153	Jan 2	(C. Billing)	169	253	Glass Marvels	(G. Glass)	165
42	The Red Devils	(K. Booth)	177	154	Chris's Cream Team	(W. Splains)	169	254	Ricknolds Rovers	(G. Rhys)	165
42	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R. Gohil)	177	155	Zigzag's Boys	(N. J. Larn)	169	255	AFC Dorset	(G. Singh Mangal)	165
42	Thorn Frolic FC	(M. Moran)	177	156	Smelly Wellies XI	(A. Razzle)	169	256	PI's Top Team	(T. Tidmarsh)	165
49	Nobby 5	(J. Brown)	176	157	Champion Elect	(J. Hammond)	169	257	Shrew Moles	(K. Browne)	165
49	Alstar	(J. Fyfe)	176	158	Hammond's Heroes	(S. Scott)	169	258	Super United	(A. Kenner)	165
49	Orvieto Classico	(J. Bradshaw)	176	159	Shooting Stars	(L. Gibbons)	169	259	The Palace	(P. Huffer)	165
49	Clover Vale	(N. Ensingh)	176	160	Champions	(A. Denny)	169	260	Shack Attack	(R. Shackleton)	165
49	Toto Calcio	(A. Daye)	176	161	Allen XI	(J. Denny)	169	261	Beep Clean Chimney	(M. Swallow)	165
54	Expensive Failures	(S. Harper)	175	162	Slaz United	(J. Butler)	169	262	Pitchbury Pirates	(J. R. Hope)	165
54	Beyond Fault	(P. Foster)	175	163	Rob's Boys 2	(R. Calder)	169	263	Nick's Naturals	(K. Mason)	165
54	PJB Rovers	(P. J. Butler)	175	164	Abc	(M. Baber)	169	264	God's Airbenders 2	(S. Smith)	165
54	Kanfer's Cronies	(E. D. Kanfer)	175	165	TWFC 1	(E. Rousledge)	169	265	Sheep Shearers	(S. A. Godfrey)	165
54	Arrogant FC	(J. K. Taylor)	175	166	Eric's Albion	(J. Seaman)	169	266	Gustard All Stars	(J. Eder)	165
59	John Hunt Taunton G	(J. Hunt)	174	167	Slaz United	(J. Seaman)	169	267	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R. Gohil)	165
59	Polly's Pies	(T. Smiley)	174	168	Beyond Care	(M. Ward)	169	268	Steven's Wonders	(S. Montgomery)	165
59	The Space Cowboys	(R. Gohil)	174	169	Inter The Pub	(M. Ward)	169	269	Careless Whispers	(L. Geary)	165
59	It's About Revenge C	(S. Shipley)	174	170	Inter The Stand	(M. Ward)	169	270	Leaswater One	(M. Price)	165
59	Set Against Cys	(J. Swales)	174	171	Chohn Chiz 69	(C. Scarle)	169	271	Sporty Big Bone	(J. Staszewicz)	165
59	Claremont Loyal	(J. Swales)	174	172	Not Bad For \$35m	(A. Harris)	169	272	Utd Boys Utd 1	(S. Gardiner)	165
59	JS August Monthly 2	(J. Swales)	174								
59	Le Bouffesters	(J. Roobuck)	174								
59	Flying Foreigners	(D. Thomas)	174								
59	Where's Ray Gone?	(P. Fromm)	174								
59	Burch Girls	(M. Burch)	173								

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING

Call the ITF helpline on 0891 864 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points	Value
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	+3	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	-3	+2
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	+5	+28
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lurid	Arsenal	0.75	0	-8
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	+5	+3
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0	+8
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1	-14
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	1
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	-7	-18
10701	S Grizovic	Coventry City	1.50	+5	-11
10702	J Flann	Coventry City	0.50	0	0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0	0
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	-1	-1
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	-1	-1
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	0
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-18
11002	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	-1
11101	J Kearton	Everton	0.50	0	0
11102	P Gerrard	Everton	2.50	0	+5
11201	G Rousset	Hibernian	2.00	-3	-20
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	-3	+3
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	-1	-22
11501	M Beesley	Leeds United	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	-8
11503	N Martyn	Leeds United	2.50	-2	-8
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0	0
11602	K Keller	Leicester City	1.00	-1	-9
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	+11
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	+10	+1
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0	0
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	-9	-23
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	-1	+3
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00	0	-3
12102	S Smith	Newcastle United	3.00	+5	+9
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12202	A Fettes	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12301	T Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0	0
12302	S Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50	0	-20
12401	A Goram	Rangers	5.00	0	+13
12501	C Freeman	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	-1	-13
12601	D Smith	Southampton	1.00	0	0
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	+2	+2
12701	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	-5	-5
12702	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	-3	+9
12801	I Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	+5	+15
12901	L Mladkovic	West Ham United	2.00	+5	-11
12902	S Mouton	West Ham United	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	-3	-5
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0



Philippe Albert, right, of Newcastle, celebrates his goal against Manchester United. His goals are valuable in ITF

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Points	Value
30304	C Tiller	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+4
30305	R Schmeica	Aston Villa	1.00	+1	+1
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	-1
30402	R Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30404	N Markar	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+3
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	-1	+5
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1	+3
30601	M Ouberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	-5
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	+4	+16
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	0
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+6
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	-3	+10
30607	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	0.50	0	0
30701	L Dalsb	Coventry City	2.00	+4	+1
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	+4	-1
30703	D Buxton	Coventry City	1.00	0	0
30801	I Silmes	Derby County	2.50	-1	0
30802	D Wassall	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30903	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	0
30904	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	-1	+4
30905	M Carbone	Derby County	0.50	0	0
30906	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+5
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-2
31002	I Egan	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-2
31101	D Unsworth	Dunfermline	2.50	0	+7
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+1
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6
31201	D McPherson	Hibernian	1.00	+2	0
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	0	+1
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	0
31302	G Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31303	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0	+3
31401	M Kelly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-3
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	+1
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	+3
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	-2	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	-2	-3
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	-3	0
31602	J Watts	Leicester City	1.00	0	+9
31603	P Keweenaw	Leicester City	0.50	0	0
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+14
31702	J Scallan	Liverpool	3.50	0	0
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+11
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	0
31705	D Matteo	Liverpool	1.00	+2	+12
31801	G Palfister	Manchester United	3.50	-4	+5
31802	D May	Manchester United	3.00	-5	+8
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	-2	+10
31804	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-5
31805	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	-3	-5
31901	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	-2	-7
31902	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	-3	-4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	+7
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+11
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	+7	+11
32102	C Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+13
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	0	-3
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0	0
32301	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	-2	-14
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	-1	+18
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32403	C Bjornholm	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32404	G Forster	Rangers	2.50	0	+4
32501	J Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	2.00	0	-3
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	0	+1
32503	B Lingham	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-4
32602	A Neilson	Southampton	1.00	+4	0
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	+3	+3
32701	C Lundkvam	Sunderland	1.00	-3	+10
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-3	+9
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	-6	-8
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+17
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	+4	+14
32803	G Mabbott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32804	J Cusack	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-3
32901	S Bilic	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+4
32902	M Rieper	West Ham United	2.50	+3	+4
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	0	-2
32904	R Fennell	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
32905	A Whitbread	West Ham United	0.25	0	0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33002	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33003	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	-1	-1
33004	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12
33005	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

Code	Name	Team	Pos	Pts	Wk	Ov
40504	P Grant	Celtic	1.50	+1	+9	
40505	P di Canio	Celtic	3.00	+1	+12	
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+11	
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+11	
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	+1	+2	
40607	D Rocastle	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
40608	R di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	+1	+16	
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40701	J Salatiello	Coventry City	2.50	+2	+14	
40702	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	+2	+13	
40702	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	+2	+7	
40703	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	+2	+8	
40704	P Telfer	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+8	
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	+1	+3	
40706	M Isaacs	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
40707	W Roland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0	
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	+1	+12	
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	+1	+8	
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0	+3	
40807	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	+1	+9	
40808	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	+3	+14	
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	0	+14	
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	+3	+6	
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.00	0	0	
42303	J McNally	Dundee United	0.75	+1	+4	
40904	D Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	+1	+5	
40905	A Bernhart	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2	
41001	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+10	
41002	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	+1	+8	
41003	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+9	
41004	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	+1	+10	
41101	A Kanchelskii	Everton	7.00	0	+14	
41102	G Speed	Everton	4.00	0	+14	
41103	J Ebbrell	Everton	1.50	0	+8	
41104	R Fowler	Everton	1.50	0	0	
41105	A Linper	Everton	1.50	0	0	
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+3	
41107	V Samways	Everton	0.50	0	0	
41202	A McManus	Hibernian	1.50	+1	+3	
41203	S Fulton	Hibernian	1.00	0	+2	
41301	K McAllister	Hibernian	1.50	+1	+8	
41302	P McGovern	Hibernian	1.00	0	0	
41303	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	0	
41304	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	+1	+10	
41305	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	+1	+2	
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	+1	+8	
41402	J McIntyre	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+6	
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
41404	J Lawless	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	0	
41501	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0	+9	
41503	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1	
41504	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0	+4	
41505	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	+1	+11	
41506	L Sherpe	Leeds United	3.50	+1	+14	
41507	I Harte	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13	
41508	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	+1	+9	
41509	A Cousins	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2	
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0	+9	
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	+2	
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	+1	+10	
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	0	
41605	M Cole	Leicester City	1.00	0	+1	
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	+18	
41702	J McAtee	Liverpool	4.00	0	+10	
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	+1	
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0	+17	
41705	M Thomas	Liverpool	2.50	0	+16	
41706	B Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+13	
41801	R Giggs	Manchester United	7.00	0	+10	
41802	R Keane	Manchester United	4.50	0	+3	
41803	D Beckham	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+18	
41804	N Butt	Manchester United	3.50	0	+8	
41805	B McClair	Manchester United	1.50	0	+2	
41807	T Cooke	Manchester United	1.00	0	0	
41808	B Thornley	Manchester United	1.00	0	0	
41809	S Davies	Manchester United	0.50	0	0	
41810	J Cruyff	Manchester United	2.50	0	+15	
41811	K Poborsky	Manchester United	4.00	+1	+9	
41901	Emerson	Middlesbrough	3.50	+3	+11	
41902	Juninho	Middlesbrough	3.50	+1	+17	
41903	C Hignett	Middlesbrough	2.00	0	0	
41905	A Moore	Middlesbrough	1.00	0	0	
41906	R Mustoe	Middlesbrough	1.00	+1	+8	
41908	C Little	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0	
41909	B Robson	Middlesbrough	0.50	0	0	
41910	P Stann	Middlesbrough	0.50	+1	+4	
42001	C McCart	Motherwell	2.00	+1	+4	
42002	J Philibert	Motherwell	1.00	0	0	
42003	J Dolan	Motherwell	1.00	0	+4	
42004	J Hendry	Motherwell	0.75	+2	+1	
42101	B Glavin	Newcastle United	1.50	+1	+11	
42102	B Birt	Newcastle United	5.50	+2	+14	

